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V.57, no. 9

Thursday VooDoo

NOVEMBER 30, 1978

DEPENDENT RABID TRANSIT
TOWN AND THE BRONX
TOWN AND BROOKLYN



THE RETURN OF
THE RAT



DOC

The Eclipse of Science

Q. In the speech from Moon reprinted in your book, I was astonished by his biology—by his description of embryos growing between the yolk and the white of an egg...

A. Yes, its nonsense. But even more astonishing was the spectacle, when he gave that speech, of Nobel Laureates getting up and applauding him—can you believe that?

—IRVING HOROWITZ, Author
Politics of Rev. Moon and the
Unification Church
MIT Press

The 500 participants in the 7th International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences have bastardized the values of their profession by suppling with and lending legitimacy to the ideas of one of the lords of the Earth—a man who manufactures Guns and U.S. support for dictatorships, and meanwhile claims to be a new Messiah destined to save the world from evil.

This Messiah has driven over 30,000 American members of his cult into a life of begging and panhandling so that he can maintain his opulent lifestyle and continue to shower cash upon a reactionary segment of the academic community in these annual half-million dollar ICUS affairs. The latter, in turn, purr back praise of Moon's 'Victory Over Communism' (V.O.C.) ideology, providing rationalizations for the Reverend's most banal utterings.

An example of these banalities is the Reverend's attitude towards his own wealth, as described in a confidential Unification Church training manual:

"Christians think the Messiah must be poor and miserable. Messiah must be the richest. Only he is qualified to have dominion over things, and unless the Messiah can have dominion over things, neither God nor the Messiah can be happy.

"Do you like to make Green Bills happy? When Green Bills are in the hands of a fallen man, can they be happy? Why don't you make them happy? So many Green Bills are crying... they are all destined to go to the Father (Moon). Money should be reported to Father... we must offer it to Heavenly Father through Father to use for a heavenly purpose."

Now what heavenly purposes are these, one may ask?

We can ask Nancy, a former Church member who lived near Moon's home in New York State. She says, "His kids are chauffeured to private schools in limousines with bodyguards. He's got two lovely yachts, and he spends a lot of time tuna fishing. He has expensive wardrobes... It was such a contrast to what I'd seen in the field—kids living a subsistence lifestyle and sending in all the money they made fundraising to support Moon. There were special fund-raising drives all over the country to raise money for the expensive presents for the Moon family on holidays."

Another of Moon's heavenly causes was lending the beleaguered Richard Nixon a reassuring hand during the Watergate Proceedings. Moon organized a media campaign of support which included full-page advertisements placed in American newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post telling Americans that "God has chosen Mr. Nixon to be President and, therefore, only God has the authority to dismiss him."

The Fraser Committee of Investigation of Korean-American Relations in the U.S. Congress said in this regard, "Over the next few months this Watergate statement was published in 50 other newspapers. Each State Unification Church center and every individual in those centers were instructed by (Moon aide) Neil Salonen to send telegrams to President Nixon, the Washington Post, and the New York Times declaring their support of Moon's Watergate statement. This was paralleled by fasting and prayers. The National Prayer and Fast Committee, a U.C. Organisation created to coordinate activities related to the Watergate statement, was invited to attend the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the evening of December 14, 1973. The roughly 1,200 Unification Church members who attended quickly turned the ceremony into a support the President rally. They were well-rehearsed, having practiced earlier.

"Demonstrations were held in Tokyo, England Germany and Italy as well.

"As a result of these efforts, (it was) arranged for Moon to be invited to the Presidential prayer breakfast held on February 1, 1974. Later in the day, Moon met briefly with President Nixon in the White House."

"Throughout all of America, Satan is becoming the master. God has been forgotten in this country.

"If there is illness in your home, do you not need a doctor from outside? God has sent me to America in the role of a doctor, in the role of a firefighter.

"I am concerned that your rejection of me could result in the rejection of God. I came to America because this is the country that God has chosen.

"On the other side of the world, the God-denying ideology of Communism has risen up and is readying to undertake an all-out offensive against the free world. Destroying America is the Communists' final and ultimate goal. They know America is God's final bulwark on Earth.

"A confrontation is inevitable between the two worlds—the God-affirming world and the God-denying world.

"Our task is to build one world under God. To do this, Christianity of the world must unite. The Unification Church movement has been created by God to fulfill that mission."

—Sun Myung Moon
Yankee Stadium
June 1, 1976



Nobel Laureate Eugene Wigner
and Rev. Sun Myung Moon



by
Homayoun Khalili

"I have not withdrawn my support as a participant in the Fifth ICUS because I am quite used to the idea of crooks and cranks supporting worthy causes. After all, there was nothing very saintly about Messrs. Carnegie, Ford and Rockefeller. My only point of principle is that the financial sponsor does not tamper with the product in any way."

Daniel Lerner
Ford International Professor of
Sociology and Int'l Communication

American Unification Church members were used to cheerlead other reactionary causes as well. The Fraser Committee writes, "At the opening of the U.N. General Assembly Session in 1974, it appeared that a North-Korean backed resolution calling for the dissolution of the UN Command in Korea was likely to succeed.

"To prevent such events, Moon hoped to sway UN delegates by calling their attention to the difficulties of some 6,000 Japanese wives who had returned to North Korea with their husbands. From Oct. 22 to 29, 1974, approximately 600 UC members fasted in front of the UN under the auspices of the "American Committee for Human Rights of Japanese Wives of North Korean Repatriates."

Moon's support of the Park Government in South Korea has been unflagging. He and other Church officials often give rousing anti-Communist speeches to church members, deploring what they call the "questionable" American commitment to South Korea and urging a new determination to fight communism, especially in Korea. In fact, many Moon disciples told the Times Magazine they had taken a vow to fight for South Korea in the event of a North Korean invasion.

OPPONENTS WILL 'DIE'—MOON

Moon has recognized that the vast, simplified concepts based on religious zealotry and anti-Communism which he has been feeding his followers in the U.S. requires a mass battering ram at one end and intellectual justification at the other.

To achieve his ends, Moon has made his followers in the Unification Church avoid contact with the outside world. "We are all worried about

Satan. The Church teaches that anybody still outside the Church is under the influence of Satan; so we had almost no contact with anyone not a church member."

Furthermore Moon has exhorted his paranoid followers to view as a Satanic deed any incursion by the outside world in the wheelings and dealings of the Unification Church's empire. In one 1974 speech, he noted that up to that time opposition to his movement had gone unpunished. This, he promised, would change: "... So far the world can be against us and nothing happens. Now when they are against us, then they're going to get the punishment. So from this time... every people or every organisation that goes against the Unification Church will gradually come down or drastically come down and die. Many people will die—those who go against our movement."

The Church leaders have subsequently said that this is not meant to be taken in a literal sense. Connoisseurs of such lack of literalism might note the remarks of California's Synanon cult leader Charles Dederich, discussing the threats to media executives because of adverse coverage of Synanon: "I don't know what these people [Synanon's friends] might do," he told a television reporter. "I don't know what action they might take against the people responsible, their wives, their children... Bombs could be thrown into very odd places, into the homes of some of the clowns who occupy high places in the Time Organisation... I would certainly not institute anything like that, but I have no way of preventing it, if it would happen." (Incidentally Synanon is suing Time for \$76.7 m.)

The latest victim of Moon's 'opponents will die' approach is Minnesota Representative Don Fraser, chairman of the House Committee on US-Korean relations as well as of the Committee to investigate cults of which the late Leo Ryan was a member.

Village Voice journalist Alexander Cockburn explains, "Fraser's enquiry into the Unification Church (with Leo Ryan) demonstrated just how potent these religious political cults can be. Opposition by the Unification Church to his investigation was signaled by the appearance of the usual coterie of high-priced Washington lawyers. These lawyers protested harassment of the church and violation of constitutional rights. The church sought to block publication of Fraser's report this fall, and eventually sued him and two investigators for \$30 million. More to the point, it dispatched lobbyists to Minnesota where the Church played at least a minor role in engineering Fraser's defeat in the senatorial primary.

"During that contest, Fraser's district office was threatened with bombing and his offices elsewhere in the state were threatened with arson. There is no known connection between the Unification Church and these threats. And no one yet knows who set the fire in Fraser's Washington townhouse, while his wife and daughter were out for dinner." (Village Voice, Nov. 27)

It is unnerving to feel that Moon and his perverted band of zealots have the power to make or break a U.S. Senator. Ryan was killed, Fraser was deposed. Of course, they had nothing to do with it, they say. "Let God work against him or any other opponent of the U.C." they told the Tech. God did it, of course. And if God keeps it up, who knows where the Moonies will be? The following statement by Moon quoted in Congressional testimony by former Moonie Allen Tate Wood may enlighten us in this regard:

"If we can turn three states of the United States around, or if we can turn seven states of the United States to our side, then the whole United States will turn. Let's say there are sons and daughters like you in each state. Then we could control the government. You could determine who became senators and who the congressmen would be. From the physical point of view, you can gain no faster success than in this way."

"If that number of people are well armed with the Divine Principle, Unification thought and Victory over Communism ideology, their speech will influence the whole population. Then the Republican party will want to have you on their side. You must say, 'Come to me.' Unless we are that powerful, we cannot save this nation... If the US continues in its corruption, and we find among the senators and congressmen no one really usable for our purposes, we can make senators and congressmen out of our members. Would you want to be wives to senators and congressmen? The male members—wouldn't you want to be senators? If you have confidence, you will make it possible, and I will make you that! If our foundation has been laid, are we going to be confident persons or not? (Audience: YES!) Then we can win the battle. This is our dream, our project, but shut your mouth tight. Have hope, and go on to realize it."

Mountaineering #1.

FUNDAMENTALS OF MOUNTAINEERING

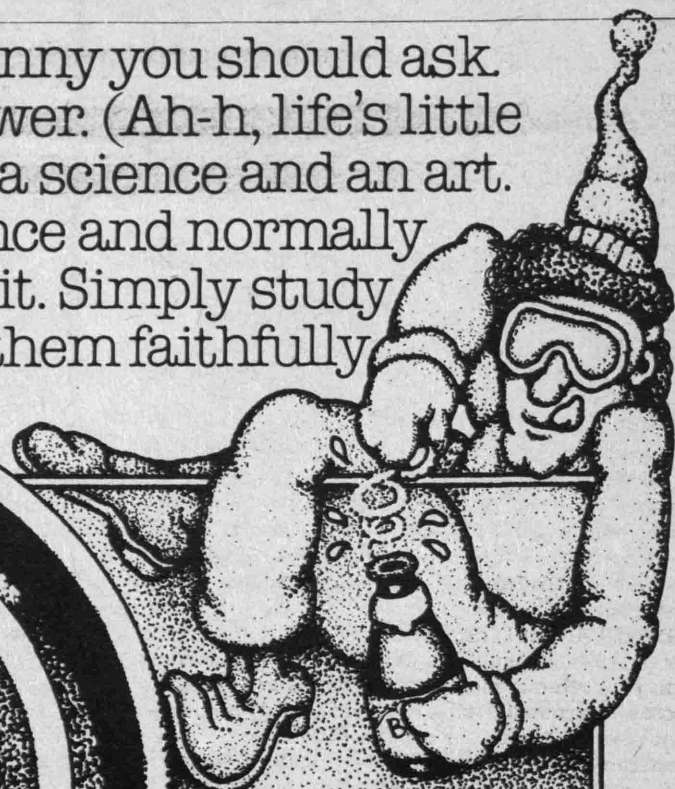
What is mountaineering all about? Funny you should ask. Because we just happen to have an answer. (Ah-h, life's little coincidences.) Mountaineering is a skill, a science and an art. Yet anyone with a thirst for excellence and normally developed motor skills can master it. Simply study these fundamentals and follow them faithfully.



1. Step one, appropriately enough, starts by selecting the correct site. To do so, pick up a bottle of Busch. This is commonly called heading for the mountains.



*Choose Only the Authentic Item
Recognize it by the Craggy Peaks Affixed thereto
Accept No Substitutes*



2. Okay, here's where the fun begins. Hold the mountain firmly in your left hand, grasp the mountain top with your right hand and twist the little fella off. There you go.



3. Now for the tricky part. Neophytes, listen up: the proper pour is straight down the center of the glass. Only in this way will the cold, invigorating taste of the mountain come to a head.



4. Once poured, pacing becomes paramount. As any seasoned mountaineer will tell you, the only way to down a mountain is slowly, smoothly and steadily - savoring every swallow of the brew that is Busch. If you're a bit awkward at first, don't be discouraged. Perfection takes practice. Soon enough, having emptied your glass and filled your soul, you too will be a mountaineer.



Fig. 1 Before Mountaineering.



Fig. 2 During Mountaineering.

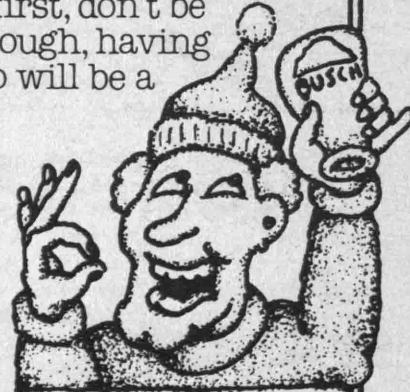


Fig. 3 After Mountaineering.



Don't just reach for a beer. **BUSCH** Head for the mountains.

Moon's Mind Mush

"When I began my research into religious cults, I wasn't very different from most Americans who hold an image of themselves as a strong, self-reliant people. No one, other than the weak or the deprived, can be brainwashed, we tell ourselves.

"And then I began to see it. After nearly two years of investigation into the religious cults of this country, I witnessed the techniques of totalitarian mind control that are used on cult members to encourage 'conversions'.

1) APPROACH

The followers of Rev. Sun Myung Moon first approached me and my collaborator one afternoon in the crisp, cool air of San Francisco Bay. When a young man approached us on Telegraph Avenue and invited us to the home he shared with his "family" in a community workshop setting, it all sounded harmless. He identified himself as part of the "Creative Community Project". So we accepted this invitation to dinner and an evening of talk and entertainment.

2) LOVE-BOMBING

We were made part of a large group of men and women who concentrated solely on us, that is, making us feel very wanted and secure in a group setting. Nothing sinister about that. But this is all part of what psychologists define as the first stage of ego-destruction and mind control: the heightening of emotions.

3) SEX

Nearly always, a member of the opposite sex is assigned to a new recruit and told to shower her, or him with attention. (Members of the Unification Church are taught that whatever "heavenly deceptions" are necessary to gain converts must be done and that heavenly reward will be reaped because of this unorthodox approach)

4) GROUP ACTIVITIES

Visitors to the cult are encouraged to sing along or play spirited games. Tremendous energy is devoted to group activity. When the newcomers want to sit down and rest, or talk with friends, this is discouraged or forbidden; ("We're having such a good time. Aren't we making you happy? Don't drop out," they say.)

SLEEP DEPRIVATION

Overnight visitors to Unification Church centers

are permitted much less sleep than they are used to, often no more than four or five hours a night.

6) DIET ALTERATION

Visitors are served (at no cost) a high-carbohydrate, low-protein diet that is frequently vegetarian and filled with strange tastes of exotic recipes. While the diet is not harmful in a short-term situation, it is nevertheless unfamiliar and contributes to a sense of detachment from ordinary life.

7) NO MENTION OF MOONISM

All during this stage of recruitment, no mention is made of specific religious principles. Instead general ideas such as the power of goodness are introduced. Another favorite topic is the way group action is more powerful than individual response. In our case, we asked time and again if the group was affiliated with the Unification Church or any religious group. The answer was always negative.

8) EMOTIONAL BLACKMAIL

Now that the subject is shut off from friends and family and feels a sense of distance from everyday life, and while his emotions are heightened and his emotional guard down, the Moonies begin "sharing" sessions and confessionals so as to gather information about the recruit's former life. With these details in hand, they will hone in on feelings of guilt and anger, in a form of emotional blackmail. In his own words, Moon discloses the method: "You must know the knack of holding and possessing the listeners' hearts. If there appears a crack in the man's personality, you wedge in a chisel, and split the person apart." So it is that while the recruits sleep the leaders review each night what they've learned about each, where his doubts and weak points are.

9) NEW WORLD VIEW SUGGESTED

The Moonies will urge people to stay day after day, long after the week-end they'd bargained for. After just ten days of this you're so confused, guilty, exhausted and eager for their sense of certainty, that whatever world-view they offer becomes the absolute truth. At this point, at last, comes the real pitch: Moon is Jesus returned, the "Lord of the Second Advent". You must sacrifice the rest of your life to him or be damned to Hell along with your family, for your selfishness.

Thursday VooDoo

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Nov. 30, 1978

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Thursday-VooDoo is
news, art,

fiction, and humor. We encourage and welcome contributions from the entire MIT community, greater Cambridge, and the rest of the universe. Meetings are to open to the public every Thursday afternoon at five on the second floor of Walker Memorial (riverside). Please come.

Eyes of the World

The "secret clauses" in the Camp David Mideast peace accords were released last week by Afrique-Asie (Paris) and Seven Days (New York). Between the following countries they are:

US-ISRAEL

US planes will provide aircover for Israel in event of war with any of the Arab nations opposed to separate treaties. In the event the USSR should intervene on their behalf, the US would place its forces on alert and be willing to risk a confrontation.

The liquidation of "radical elements" of the PLO will be arranged to transform it into a "peaceful organization."

Negotiations between the US and Israel to establish a formal defense treaty will continue and could be completed in as little as five years.

Subject to Congressional approval, Israel will be loaned up to \$5 billion by the US until the fate of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is decided, and will be supplied with the latest military hardware.

The US will use its influence to stop Western arms sales to Arab countries opposed to the accords, and will persuade its allies and other third world countries to support the accords and re-establish any broken diplomatic relations between them and Israel.

US-EGYPT

US and Egyptian Intelligence services will be linked to provide Sadat with detailed information on global and regional facts and events.

Egypt will have US support to inspire regional conflict so as to undermine adversary Arab Alliances.

The Egyptian army will be supplied with modern weapons to ensure its defensive capacity and intervene in Third World countries threatened by "internal subversion" or "international communism."

The US will provide military "protection" for Egypt in case of war with other Arab states.

Carter will pressure Arab "moderates" to accept the accords and continue monetary support to Egypt, currently totaling \$2 billion/year from Saudi Arabia and \$2 billion/year from Persian Gulf Sheikdoms.

A "Marshall Plan" will be set up by Western countries to provide Egypt with several billion dollars in aid over the next five years.

ISRAEL-EGYPT

Liasons between the intelligence services of the two countries will be established, and Sadat's government will help Israel pinpoint "terrorist" bases, wherever they occur, for liquidation.

Egypt will not intervene against Israel in the event of an Arab-Israeli war. Formal political/military consultations will be arranged including exchange visits by Egyptian and Israeli military officers, and after the evacuation at the Sinai, a full military alliance between the two countries will be formed.

Egypt will cease to insist on asking for a PLO role in the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and will encourage the creation of a "Third Force" of Palestinians and King Hussein of Jordan.

Both countries will undertake to compel Syria to evacuate Lebanon within twelve months.

Last Monday San Francisco mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated in separate rooms of City Hall. Dan White, ex-Supervisor, surrendered to the police about an hour after the shootings. These killings occurred just a week after the shooting of Congressman Ryan and the mass suicide of the Peoples Temple in Guyana, South America. Apparently Reverend Jim Jones, Temple leader, was politically close to Mr. Moscone. This connection is being down-played by the press. Media coverage discusses the homosexuality of Milk and the idea that White used to persecute gays. Also White was just denied, by Moscone, a petition to be reinstated as City Supervisor after his recent resignation. These tragic events, which contain such unusual occurrences as the overlooking of 500 dead bodies, happened ten years after the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Special End of Term Issue



We are currently accepting manuscripts, graphics, photographs, stories, poems, and other interesting paraphenalia for our last issue of the term. Deadline is noon Tuesday. Mail all contributions to

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LIVE FROM NEW YORK (sorta)

... BY THE RAT



This is not a recording, a prewritten column or a joke. This is a live, all-new column by The Rat. Yes, the man (?) who made Irregardless famous, that irrepressible escapee from a biology experiment is back—at least for today. The future comes later.

It is very strange to be back at these typewriters after eight months, WBCN on the radio, dope being smoked. The pipe being used is even the one that I bought for the office.

I've been in New York. That's where I live now. Very strange city. As an example, the subway and bus systems in New York run 24 hours a day, unlike Boston's which shut down late at night; yet it is almost impossible to find anything useful, like a Store 24 or Sunnycorner Farms etc. etc., open 24 hours in New York.

What New York does have in its favor is music. Despite the impression the major media outlets give, all New York does not dream of getting into Studio 54. Most of them would rather hear jazz at Ali's Alley or the Village Vanguard, see top-name rock acts at the intimate Bottom Line (this place makes the Paradise look like an even worse garbage heap than it is), or listen to new wave rockers at old favorites CBGB's and Max's Kansas City or the most exciting new club in New York, Hurrah's. A former disco, it has been converted into the first new wave rock club with a dance floor. With a capacity of almost 1000, the place is small enough for intimacy, but still packs in many more people than similar clubs elsewhere in the city.

The big losers in the New York newspaper strike were neither the newspapers, the unions, nor the readers. They were the Washington Post and the Boston Globe. For many years, these two papers had enjoyed a reputation as being competitive with the *Times* in quality of reporting. Well, during the strike many New Yorkers turned to these two papers and came away disillusioned. Because no matter how much you put down the *Times* for the special sections like Home and Living and SportsMonday and the all-new Science Times, it still is the most influential and informative newspaper in America and possibly the world.

As part of the aftermath of the horrible massacre/suicide in Guyana, it has been suggested that a fence be erected around California. After all, that's where all these crazies always come from. In fact, I have learned exclusively from my Carter Administration contacts that this plan is seriously being considered at the top. In the view of the White House, many problems facing the Administration could be solved through the implementation of this plan. First of all, it would seal off Jerry Brown from the rest of the country, effectively ending his potential challenge to Carter in 1980. The Palestinian homeland could then be moved to Southern California. Meanwhile, the San Francisco Bay area would become the national dumping ground for nuclear wastes. The construction of the fence would require a massive public works project, which we'll need after the upcoming depression hits.

Depression? What is he talking about? Well, America has two basic states of existence. It is either involved in a war or in a recession/depression. I'd like to believe that Vietnam is still recent enough that any attempt to send American troops abroad—say, to the Middle East or Southern Africa—would result in a national revolt. Already the military is asking that the registration portion of the draft be reactivated to "improve our state of preparedness." Anyway, that leaves us with a depression.

I would now like to express my extreme disappointment with the voters of Massachusetts (the "Don't Blame Me" state) for electing Edward King the new governor. The nicest description of the man that I've heard is that he's a neanderthal. It was especially upsetting since New Hamp-

shire finally sobered up and thre Meldrim "Nuke-'em" Thompson out on his ass. It is men like Thompson and King who represent the real obscenity in our society and not a George Carlin comedy routine on "Seven Dirty Words."

I sincerely hope that Luis Tiant wins 25 games for the Yankees next season. And the Red Sox win the pennant.

You may not believe this, but a skit from Saturday Night Live comes to life right here in Boston. Back Bay Pizza (who call themselves "Best in Town") looks, feels, and sounds like the Greek diner on Saturday Night Live that serves only "cheeseburgers, chips, and Pepsi." Check it out some night, it is a very strange scene to walk into.

If President Carter is really serious about his anti-inflation program, he should take a close look at record prices. The recent increase from \$7.98 list price to \$8.98 list price is an obnoxious 12 1/2% rise. At real retail prices, the increases range from 10% to a staggering 20%. While costs have gone up, this despicable increase, coming less than 2 years after the rise to \$7.98, is a prime example of charging everything you can get. The consumer gets ripped off for the extra bucks on the most popular albums just before Christmas.

Yet it is another new record company ripoff that angers me even more. Their newest trick is producing limited edition records that cost a significant extra premium. The most popular of these are "picture discs." What is happening is that dozens of different collector's items are being created. Seems nice, but the sheer volume of different ones will lower the ventual value of them all. Meanwhile the consumer pays \$15 or more for a "collector's edition" and \$5.00 or more for an album to listen to.

New York has turned me into a fan of radio, largely because because that's all that I can listen to in my office. Nothing can approach WBCN or WCAS, but New York radio is not all-news, disco, and top 40. The old progressive radio champ WNEW-FM is being directly challenged by WPIX. WNEW has responded by doing at least one and often more live broadcasts each week. And their morning dj, Dave Herman, is so good that I was able to cure my addiction to Charles.

This column is turning into a real chore. Just a few hours until I leave this world of fantasy in Cambridge and return to some form of reality. Everything is too easy here. Except writing this nonsense. And the worst part is that I have to watch what I say. It seems that MIT has lost its insurance for libel suits against student publications. In other words, MIT would have to pay for any legal fees or damages if someone is libeled in a student newspaper. Even if you just claim to have been libeled and file suit, MIT pays for the legal fees for the defense. So get out there and file suit. Now!

Just kidding, Jerry.

It has been brought to my attention that some of you have not yet seen Animal House. You must see this movie. Either it will bring back memories of your college life or make you wish that yours was like it. Animal House also contains one of the best "getting stoned" scenes ever done in the movies.

Since time is growing short and this may be my last column ever for this publication (see below for details), I'd like to mention some special people that have made this all possible. First, my mentor and hero, the Batterfiend, without whom I'd have a few million more brain cells. Apple, Shoe, Mr. B. and Dr. P. for the eternal inspiration they provided. All my old friends in the Dean's Office for that special mutual wariness they provided. And especially, all the members of the Academy for voting me this award.

That's all, gerbil brains.

If you would like The Rat to continue his dispatches from his new location in the Big Apple, write to The Rat, c/o TVD, Box C, East Campus. In fact, write if you definitely DO NOT want to see nire if The Rat in this newspaper. Just write, please.

The Rat is a former columnist for this paper who has since moved on to conquer the advertising world in New York. He is still a little weird.

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the ua news

On this Friday, December 1, members of the Corporation Screening Committee for Younger Alumni Members will be holding a open meeting in the Malar Lounge (room 37-252) at 4 PM. The purpose is to discuss the nomination and screening process and the role of the Corporation in Institute affairs. Beer and munchies will be served.

Each year, the term of one of the Corporation members so chosen expires and a new member is chosen for a five-year term. The selection process proceeds as follows: First, the Corporation Screening Committee solicits suggestions for possible nominations. Nominees must be members of at least one of the groups:

- 1) Undergraduate class receiving a Bachelor's degree during the calendar year 1979.
- 2) Graduate students completing their terminal year of study and receiving an advanced degree during the calendar year 1979.
- 3) Those who graduated from the Institute or received graduate degrees.
- 4) Those who graduated from the Institute or received graduate degrees during 1977.

Nominations should be sent by December 15, 1978 to:
Mr. Richard A. Knight '47, Secretary
MIT Alumni Association, Building Ten, Room 115
Cambridge, MA 02139.

There will be a General Assembly meeting tonight at 7:00 PM in Room 400 of the student center. The following items will be discussed: 1) Opinions on the Nestle Boycott. 2) MIT and the 'Little Eleven Conference'. 3) Proposed social events for IAP and Spring.

The end of term meeting will be Dec. 10 at 7pm in MacGregor House. All interested student are invited. A preliminary analysis of the survey results will be discussed. Refreshments will be served.

The Pre-Spring Fling is an annual semi-formal dance presented by the Undergraduate Association and the Student Center Committee. It involves two live bands, refreshments, and two floors (!) of the Student Center. It is the largest couple's event of the year on the MIT campus. This year it is scheduled for February 24th. If you would like to help with the decorations, refreshments, planning or whatever, please call John Guppy at dormline 7635 or X3-3916 or Barry Newman at X3-2696.

The U.A. Ad-hoc Freshmen Committee meets every Monday at 4:30 PM. Meetings are in the U.A. Office on the 4th floor of the Student Center. All freshmen are invited to come and participate.

REMEMBER--STANLEY ALLEN SHERMAN WILL BE RETURNING TO MIT THIS WEEKEND!
Performances: Friday, Dec. 1 at 8:00 pm,
Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8:00 pm, and Sunday,
Dec. 3 at 2:00 pm. (The Saturday matinee performance has been cancelled.)
Kresege Little Theatre - Admission: \$2.00

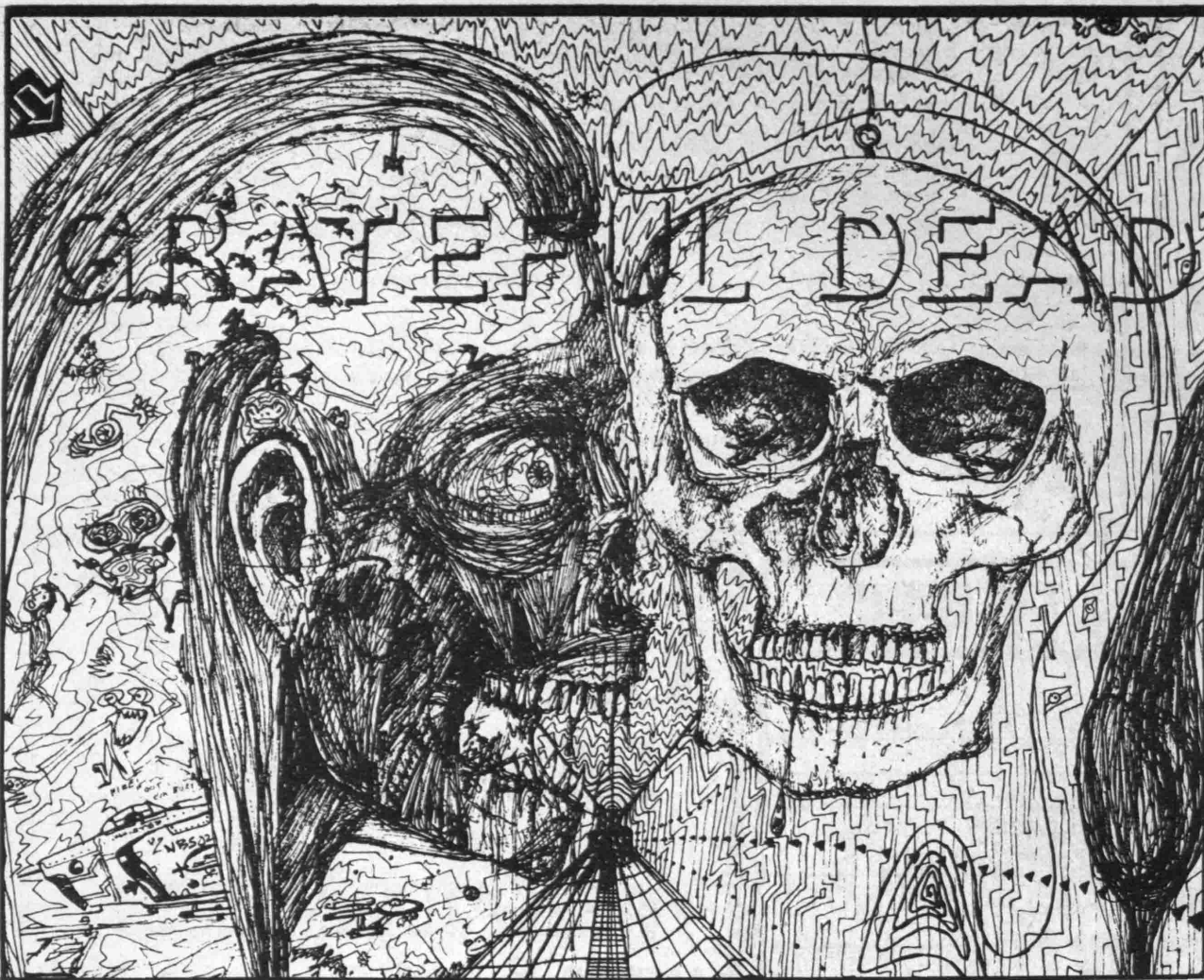
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PERFORMANCES: Friday, Dec. 1 at 8:00 pm
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Sunday, Dec 3 at 2:00 pm
(THE SATURDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN CANCELLED)
KRESEGE LITTLE THEATRE - ADMISSIONS: \$2.00

Reports from student representatives on the CEP are now available in the UA office. Just stop by if you want to know what is going on with the CEP.

The SCEP is currently surveying student opinions on matters of educational policy. Please complete and return the survey.

take the time! get involved!



The Dead are back on tour! Just can't seem to get enough. I was curious to hear what changes they went through this time around, especially after having returned from their trip to Egypt. They played in front of the sphinx using echo from inside the king's chamber of the great pyramid. Dan Healy, the Dead sound guru, said that the sarcophagus amplified the resonant frequency about 60 decibels and the harmonics followed the Tempered scale instead of the mathematical Just scale. Interesting.

Getting tickets is usually a game, this time it was really fucked up. The rules kept changing. I heard about a concert in Providence and laid down a deposit for two at Out of Town. Then the ad came out in *the Real Paper*. I called up the Dead office and got the schedule, no Providence concert, but two nights in Boston! A lot of people started reserving tickets, in the end there were more reservations than expected tickets. To top it off Out of Town got even less tickets. People who thought they had the ultimate security got screwed. For me the reservation was just an added benefit, the real game was at the box office. The Music Hall was getting pissed because people kept calling up to find out when tickets were going on sale, and Don Law was playing mystery man. Hot rumors about Law's business practices were flying. The night before tickets went on sale there was a sign on the door stating the opposite. I went home to sleep and didn't get back till 8am. Too late! After dealing with the intense crowds I got mediocre seats.

So much for the tickets. At least I got some, and more for my friends. Dead concerts are always a reunion. Friends came up from Philly and N. J. also a friend out in Illinois got some tickets for the Chicago concert. I couldn't wait.

Finally the week began. Monday was a strange night. There were strong negative vibes emanating from the stage that overwhelmed me and hindered my enjoyment of the concert. It seemed like things were not coming together. Later that week I talked to a sound person who said that the monitors weren't working so they couldn't hear what they were singing; also the ushers were being assholes and actually keeping people from dancing.

There were a few memorable moments however, like "Jack Straw". "Jack Straw from Wichita cut his buddy down." This concept was characterized on stage towards the end of the song when Jerry and Bob seemed to try and anticipate each other's moves. A chord from one of them would precede the other by a split second. Then it's, "My oh buddy you're moving much to slow..." and the Dead slowed down to finish off the song.

The second set was spaced out. "Franklin's Tower" was refreshing since I hadn't heard it in a while. "Friend of the Devil" was really slow if you know what I mean. Then began the long jam with "Playin' in the Band." A song with 10 beats to the measure and guaranteeing a spacejam. Space they did but it was a dying space and it wilted out of existence while a drum diet emanated from within; but Bill and Mickey didn't have the feelings together. There was a time when they were almost fighting, taking pot shots at each other's drums. Jerry, Bob, and Phil came back on and played unmelodic and disjointed feedback and space. It was almost like "I don't feel like playing, I'm just going to make wierd sounds." The sounds however were very interesting and eventually coagulated into "Black Peter." From there they jammed to finish "Playing in the Band" and then started up "Around and Around" a Chuck Berry rocker, and rock they did. They just kept up the energy and we just kept dancing. Leave it to Bobby to get people moving.

For an encore they played what they always play

in Boston. "U. S. Blues." I think it helps express their sentiments towards this town.

I talked to some friends after the show that really liked it, said it was amazing. That just goes to show a Dead concert is a very personal experience. It certainly was different. Jerry was singing some low bass notes and Bob was playing slide lead. Still I could not get past my feelings of the Dead being bummed out.

After a day's rejuvenation we settled back into our seats for the second show. They opened with a long, melodic version of "Sugaree"... WOW! Everyone was smiling, the songs were dripping with gold. The ending of the first set was rather interesting. The last song they played was "Miracle" a new song by Bob Weir -- "Too much of everything is just enough" At the end of the song Bob, Donna, and Jerry sang "I need a miracle everyday" acappella repeatedly. They faded out slowly and in the place of singing another line, Bob just went up to the mike and said something about a break.

The second set opened with "Bertha." My friend told me he got the impression the song was about the audience trying to dance and getting stifled by the ushers, "I had to move, really had to move." That interested me because when I saw the Dead in Virginia the audience was really crowding the stage; so during "Bertha" I thought of them telling the crowds to move back. The name refers to a huge electric fan that used to hop around the old Dead office. Every now and then it would run into the wall and take a hunk with it. "Try to read between the lines."

Later that set towards the end of the percussion jam, which has become a regular feature at concerts, Jerry picked up his guitar and spaced out for a while with Bill and Mickey. This melted into "Wharf Rat" and from there into "Not Fade Away" at the end of which the crowd was clapping not the beat but the melody. While we were clapping the Dead switched gears and hit us with "Goin' Down the Road" a traditional song. Those three songs in a row were an incredible end to the concert. The same combination as on the album *Skull Fuck* (Skull and Roses). They could do nothing else but rock us out with "Johnny B. Goode" as an encore. Tuesday night made up for the wierdness of monday. They were so tight, they were loose. "Not only were they loose, they were tight."

Friday found us one third the way across the country in the Chicago Uptown Theatre, a nice place similar to the Boston Music Hall only smaller, with better acoustics, and much mellower ushers. That afternoon, while we were sleeping, the Dead played an acoustic concert to a few hundred people. Sorry I missed it.

When the lights went down, the place was half empty. The reality of being at a Dead concert seemed remote. The Grateful Dead, however, were on stage tuning up. They started playing a new tune called "Shakedown Street." A bit funky for my tastes but interesting none the less. Here I was in the third largest city in the States, one with various urban legends, and the Dead were singing, "Don't tell me this town ain't got no heart!"

The whole scene that night was relaxed. The acoustics were great. I finally understood all the lyrics to "Fenario." "Cassidy" was neat, they always play it slightly off in key and beat. Kind of like you're cooking down a mountain in a bus with no brakes and filled with pranksters.

The second set opened with "Bertha" into "Good Lovin'" during which they blew a speaker. Lucky they're in Chicago where lies the speaker graveyard. After a mellow "Ship of Fools" they played a rather spaced out "Estimated Prophet" During the jam I just sat back, closed my eyes, and watched the

intertwining patterns of colors. That's the amazing thing about the Grateful Dead, they take your head and play with it, take you far away and then bring you back in. "Eyes of the World" lead to a percussion duet. I ran upstairs to get a better view. Bill was playing a tom-tom and Mickey was making wierd sounds with a machine that I couldn't see. He also had a spiral bell that Bill was throwing drum sticks at. The Dead came together so I ran downstairs to catch a long version of "Terrapin." This flowed into "Around and Around" which had a moderate amount of energy. What followed was a simple gesture. Someone threw some roses on stage. Bob caught one and stuck it on the end of his guitar. The energy level reached new heights. It was amazing. The whole song was a far reaching crescendo. "Casey Jones" surprised me as an encore. I had never heard it in concert before.

Earlier I met some really nice people from the Univ. of Chicago; so after the concert we went to their dorm for a party. They have a lounge with a fireplace. It's nice to realize that there are still some people around that haven't been caught up in the rushing flow of cynicism.

Saturday night's first set included some new songs. Jerry sang one called "Stagger Lee" about a woman's revenge, "He shot my Billy dead, and now he's got to die" with rather colorful lyrics, "Stagger Lee lit a cigarette, she shot him in the balls". Bob sang an old Stones song called "It's all over now," and Donna did a song called "From the Heart of Me." Her voice is definitely improving. They ended up the set with "The Music Never Stopped" and took a break.

The second set was not played quite as well as Tuesday but the selection of music was more interesting. They started out with "Scarlet Begonias" which jams into "Fire on the Mountain" and back out to "Scarlet Begonias" Mickey Hart recorded the music to "Fire on the Mountain" in his percussion album, *Diga Rythum Band* under the name "Happiness is Drumming" The song contains interesting synchopated rythums. I like it.

Next they played "Miracle" I was getting a little tired of hearing it, they played it almost every night. I mean it's a catchy song and the acappella section flows, but too much of a good thing is just too much. Fortunately they did not dwell on the song but connected it to "He's Gone." There's a vocal trio at the end of the song but they didn't seem to be into it. Instead the drums started picking up energy. I thought they were going to do the percussion section but no, Phil started flying on his Bass and we were amongst "The Other One" I was ecstatic. I waited a year to hear this song, I felt like a whole person.

Spanish lady comes to me she lays on me a rose
In rainbow spirals round and round it trembles and explodes
It left a smoking crater of my mind like it was blown away
But the heat came round and busted me for smiling on a cloudy day

Escaping through the lily fields I came across an empty space
It trembled and exploded left a bus stop in its place
The bus came by and I got on Thats when it all began
There was cowboy Niel at the wheel of a bus to never-never land

Coming, coming, coming around In circles.



This particular version was short and they never lost the beat to space out between verses. Instead they spaced out after the second verse. As opposed to Monday the space was connected. The Dead used feedback musically to obtain interesting tones, that is they control the notes that are played. After spacing out for a long time Bill and Mickey took over. Towards the end of their percussion jam Mickey was playing some strange instrument that looked like a large tambourine. He accompanied Jerry who was playing arabic rifts on his guitar.

All of a sudden the whole band was back and playing "Wharf Rat." From there they jammed slowly into "Sugar Magnolia." Usually they start playing the first few notes and everyone goes crazy. This time we were eased into it. It was great. I knew they had to play it, our car was parked on Magnolia St. out back.

There was definitely some good music played this tour, but my overall impression is that the Dead weren't really on top of it. It was good but it wasn't great. I expect more of the Grateful Dead than other groups.

The week after, the Dead played in Passaic, N. J. and over the airwaves. Jerry's voice sounded really hoarse. The next night they cancelled the concert and Jerry was in the hospital with bronchitus. The sickness probably had an effect on the earlier concerts. We'll have to see what happens next time around.

WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN!
-MOE

Nice Country

by Murray Denofsky and Kathleen Zaskey

What's A Nice Country Like You Doing In A State Like This? at Boston's Charles Playhouse, is the definitive revue on post-radical, post-oil crisis, post-sexual revolution America. As up-to-date as multiple organ transplants and Camp David. Cary Hoffman and Ira Gasman have put together a take-off on just about everything that has been happening in this country since Watergate became old news, the flower children vanished from the streets, and the bottom fell out of the job market for college graduates.

Gasman's fulfilled lyrics seize every opportunity for clever wordplay, and make shameless reference to familiar vignettes, with sources ranging from Tom Lehrer and Anita Bryant to Charlie Brown and Sesame Street. Costuming is simple but suggestive: skullcaps and Bedouin headdresses distinguish Jew from Arab.

Nixon, Kissinger and Ford each get a few slings, but the lion's share of arrows is reserved for President Carter, the peanut man who made it to the White House on the strength of his photogenic chop-pers. "The only thing that makes me wonder is - what the hell is Jimmy Carter smiling about?" His kinsfolk give us a breathtaking tour of Plains, including the hayloft where young Jimmy was last struck by lust.

A prominent role in this production is played by husband-wife team Cary and Suzanne Astor Hoffman, who ask you not to hold this relation against them. In addition to their providing two of the four performers, Cary has composed the music and Suzanne directed. He has worked in a wide range of roles as actor, composer and television author, including last fall's NBC special *CIA Report*. She is a veteran of such Broadway shows as *How Now Dow Jones?* and TV's *All In the Family*.

Suzanne plays a liberated woman who can and does act the sexual aggressor, scaring the hell out of the neighborhood's lone remaining male chauvinist, Bob Rogerson. In "The Last One of The Boys" Bob recalls nostalgically how the men he once played cards, drank beer, and smoked cigars with have all turned gay. Bob is a Boston local, having long appeared in community theatre here, most recently as Linus in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!*

Cary plays the liberal New York Jew that he is, adding a special glow of sincerity and pathos to his lines, which immediately reveal him as doing more than mere acting. He is talking about himself and all of us, putting words to a common experience we have been undergoing and are just beginning to understand. From "Liberals' Lament" where he complains in shock that his children call him a Fascist, to his evolution into "a radical conservative who takes an extreme position in the middle of the road (maybe the businessmen are right!)", he expresses the political confusion brought to this land by the collapse of conventional dogmas on the left as well as on the right. In "A Mugger's Work Is Never Done," irony has him wandering the streets for a living, being left with no other choice, given his liberal arts degree.

As the evening progresses, *double entendres* proliferate, sexual themes running between the lines of political ones. Suzanne, bemoaning the gasoline shortage during the oil boycott, sings about how her friendly neighborhood serviceman can still look under her hood, check her points, and pull her pistons as well as always, but "he can't fill 'er up any more!" Arab oil barons dance "sheikh-to-sheikh (at least it's not a Polish joke)" and the Dow-Jones average "just can't get it up."

For all its freshfaced, cynical barbs, *Nice Country* makes a surprisingly strong and refreshing affirmation of life. It is life as finally appreciated by those of us who are over thirty in the seventies, but who were under thirty in the sixties. Vic-

tims at once to a crisis of personal and political identity and one of the pocketbook, we have nevertheless gained an awareness that life offers more pluses than minuses, and are not ashamed to admit "I like me." The malcontent, self-righteous radical of a bygone era has matured into the self-accepting, if still somewhat confused, adult human being of today.

Both farcical and upbeat aspects of this play were enthusiastically received by the mixed-age, polyester-suited opening night audience. *Nice Country* is at the Charles Playhouse downtown (76 Warrenton Street) only until Dec. 17, so hurry. Tickets available the night of the performance.

Letters TO

Thanks for your provocative review of the Shakespeare Ensemble's fall productions. It's good to find some discussion of a production in place of the usual plot summary. But your reviewer, Steve Kopelson, is confused about Shakespeare's text of *Much Ado About Nothing*. It's not, in fact, a particularly short play, but exactly typical for a Shakespeare comedy. The Ensemble's productions follow common practice in making some cuts (even the Royal Shakespeare Company rarely plays Shakespeare uncut) and emending an obscure word or phrase here and there. But any words grafted in are from Shakespeare's own stock, never anachronistic. The acting version is essentially Shakespeare's and no "update."

Your reviewer calls our editing "haughty," and cites as his only example the supposed deletion of "Dogberry's funniest Goldwynism": a line about bringing his prisoners "in monocles" instead of manacles. The simple fact is that the word "monocles" occurs nowhere in Shakespeare, in *Much Ado* or anywhere else. Mr. Kopelson seems to have assumed that a line inserted into his favorite version of the play (a la Hollywood) was actually Shakespeare's, and then chides us for cutting it! Ragtime and Keystone Kops are just fine on their own terms, but to insist that a play of Shakespeare's be forced into their mould is to assume that an MIT audience can appreciate only one sort of culture, and a limited culture at that.

What does Mr. Kopelson mean by "clarity of conceptual development?" This lofty phrase sounds like a call for director's conception imposed on Shakespeare's. We prefer to work with the author's as far as we can uncover it. Similarly, it's no disgrace not to have seen the NET "conception" of *Much Ado*. To judge from the Broadway original of that production, it gave us both Keystone and the "whimsical and light piece" that your reviewer wants; and it was fun to watch. But it quite missed the serious side that, mixed with its comedy, makes the play so unusually rich.

The actor playing the villain in our *Much Ado* was not trying to be especially "Shakespearean." His vocal style simply measured his view of the character's speech.

Mr. Kopelson is right that our Juliet is, and probably looks, older than Shakespeare's "fourteen." (Romeo's age is never mentioned.) But how literally should we take Shakespeare's numbers? How crucial are they to the characterizations? Aren't Romeo and Juliet simply adolescent? Does Iago have to be exactly 28, Kent 48, and Lear over 80? And what about the figures in *Hamlet* where the earliest texts don't even match?

I for one agree with Mr. Kopelson that the Ensemble's stage is too small for the brawl in *Romeo and Juliet*. Generally speaking, however, its open style suits our productions well. If Mr. Kopelson knows of a better setting on campus, we'd be glad to hear of it.

Murray Biggs
Director, The Shakespeare
Ensemble



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Earlier this fall, *The Tech* celebrated the revival of the MIT football team with an article, written undoubtedly by some freshman, about the history of MIT football. The article stated that MIT was one of the major intercollegiate powers in the 1880's. This is wholly untrue; MIT would never have made the Top Ten if there had been AP polls in those days. MIT's two league championships were cited as evidence for this proposition, with no mention of the fact that the league in question was a minor one which would be classed as Division II (OK, Division I-AA) today. *The Tech* said that MIT played some of the nation's leading teams, including Dartmouth, Brown, Amherst, Stevens, and Harvard. In fact, the first four of these were not very strong in that period. As for Harvard, it is true that the Engineers (surely one of the less inspiring nicknames) did play the Crimson fairly often. It is also true that they were without exception annihilated by Harvard, scoring maybe one or two touchdowns in about twenty games. In 1886, Harvard was able to set an all-time single-season scoring record that will last forever largely because they were lucky enough to play MIT three times. Finally, *The Tech* discussed the discontinuation of the football team at some length without even hinting at the actual reason: the death of a student during the brutal Field Day activities associated with the team.

I wrote *The Tech* correcting these misstatements some months ago. My letter has not yet been printed. I do not think they can be blamed for this; they must receive so many letters pointing out serious factual errors in their articles that they cannot possibly publish them all. Exaggeration of MIT sporting feats is nothing new for *The Tech*, of course. I read also this fall an article about the water polo team's tour of California. The team was said have played some of the best squads in the country, another inflation of the truth. Every year the fencing team is described as winning the New England title, without ever explanation that the Ivy League schools do not compete in this tournament. NCAA, IC4A, and ECAC tourneys are frequently covered without the qualifiers "Division III", "College Division", etc. You get the idea.

The shame of this is that MIT *does* have the best athletic program of any American college, but not in terms of competitive quality. The wide opportunities for participation, sane attitude toward winning, free admission to events, and total integration of athletes and other students so characteristic of MIT sports have attracted wide attention and need not be belabored here. These are reason enough for MIT to be proud, and there is no need to manufacture competitive triumphs to gloat over. Indeed, overstating of the kind I have described actually obscures and cheapens the very real merits of the program.

I do not mean to imply that MIT sports history is without its moments of high achievement. The sailing team has historically been the nation's strongest Rifle and pistol have won national championships. Crew and fencing have at times approached the pinnacle. Some may say these are minor sports that may be described as "technological" or even "military," but such criticism is not entirely justified. As far as outstanding individuals, I know of at least a dozen MIT Olympians, about half of whom won medals. Sportsmen of the very highest calibre who attended MIT include Nathaniel Herreshoff 1870, perhaps the outstanding figure in world yacht racing; Robert Neyland SM '21, who became a legendary football coach; Joseph Levis '26, and George Calnan SM '32, two of America's greatest fencers; and James Prigoff '47, the foremost squash tennis player of all time. The names of Johan Akerman, Clint Murchison, Lim-Ming Chui and Olin Stephens are also not strangers to the sports pages. To some extent, such attainments are to be expected of any wealthy Eastern college, but in view of the special characteristics of MIT students, any real excellence in athletics must be considered in some way remarkable.

I have never seen a general discussion of MIT's strength in the playing of games. Few schools have produced as many senior masters in chess as MIT has (five). Ken Rogoff, who is probably the most talented American player since Fischer, is a graduate student. There have been some very strong bridge experts, and MIT students have held world championships in Frisbee and Table Hockey. In tiddlywinks, the Institute has completely dominated the game for the past decade, turning out a clear majority of the world's best players. The accomplishments of Ferd T. Bull '68, Sunshine '69, Bob Henninge '69, Mitch Wand '69, Tim Schiller '72, Bill Renke '73, Ross Callon '73, Dave Lockwood '75 (featured in the Nov. 27 issue of *People* magazine) and Larry Kahn '75 should suggest to even the most casual winks fan the magnitude of MIT's contributions. If tiddlywinks becomes America's most popular strategic sport/game, as seems likely, the great engineering school on the Charles will have had a lot to do with its success.

Fred Shapiro '74

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I have tried in my time to be a philosopher but I don't know how, cheerfulness was always breaking in.

--Oliver Edwards

Omaha is a little like Newark—without Newark's glamour.

--Joan Rivers

The more patience I have, the more people use it.

--Anonymous

The people who turn out best are those people who make the best out of the way things turn out.

--John Wooden

Don't be troubled if the temptation to give advice is irresistible the ability to ignore it is universal.

--Anon.

One of the virtues of being very young is that you don't let the facts get in the way of your imagination.

--Sam Levenson

Anyone who conducts an argument by appealing to authority is not using his intelligence he is just using his memory.

--Leonardo da Vinci

There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball—have either a clear conscience or none at all.

--Anon.

The secret of polite conversation is never open your mouth unless you have nothing to say.

--Anon.

We do not know what education could do for us, because we have never tried it.

--Robert M. Hutchins

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If there's one thing history proves it's that our leaders are a lot better at thinking up reasons to fight wars than we are.

--Arthur Hoppe

Anybody who is certain about anything complex is certainly wrong. I'm certain about that.

--Cyril Smith

We must remember the future remembering that soon it will be past: we must respect the past remembering that once it was all that was humanly possible.

--George Santayana

What monstrosities would walk the streets were some people's faces as unfinished as their minds.

--Eric Hoffer

Genetics explain why you look like your father and if you don't why you should.

--Harold Dunn

The things that don't exist are the most difficult to get rid of.

--Cori Randle

Of course the meek will inherit the earth. They won't have the nerve to refuse it.

--John Normandy

The trouble is that the car of tomorrow is being driven on the high-way of yesterday by the driver of today.

--Rolfe Arrow

A word to all of you who have sent in quotations: Thanks. Keep 'em coming.

And to those of you who would like to send in your favorite quotation, do send them to:

The Last Word
c/o Thursday
Box D, East Campus

by

Naila Beg