

WHO, US?

The psychologists who met in New York, not long ago, to talk about human qualifications for space travel decided that brains, not brawn, is the most important. Plus, noted Time Magazine, "an absolute minimum of supporting tissue." The symposium's first choice to man the galaxy-trotting ships of the future? A female midget from M.I.T. with a Ph.D. in physics.

This conclusion led other conferees to suggest that recent Russian claims to rocket proficiency could mean that the first person to set foot on the moon would be a Russian woman. Final chapter to this bit of moonshine lies with Prof. Martin Buerger (Geol.). About a week after the symposium, Prof. Buerger received a letter from a German friend who had read an item in a newspaper and asked: "We hear that M.I.T. is training Russian midgets for space travel..."



Alumna, Class of 1999

BLACK BONNIES

Bradley Smith, photographer for Life Magazine, said he wanted action. He got so much of it that he had to ask one elegant drummer to "please slow down a little." The occasion was the shooting of a cover picture to go with a Life story on the Black Watch regiment's current tour of the U.S. An old friend of Prof. Harold Edgerton, Smith requisitioned the Little Theatre in Kresge Auditorium as a studio.



For two hours he shuffled, reshuffled, and chirruped at the eight stalwart Scots chosen for the picture. Seemingly recovered from a full-length performance at the Boston Garden the night before, the Watchmen pirouetted and piped with top finesse. While upstairs, in the cool spaciousness of the main hall, a group of visiting engineers launched a conference on "Gaseous Electronics" -- with temporary bag-pipe overtones.

Asked if his battalion had ever been to America before, the Drum Major had a quick answer. "Not since we burr-unned Washington." Upon arrival last month, the regiment

paid a five-day visit to that much changed city as guests of the United States Marines. No burning this trip, but victory in another field of endeavor: the pipes were still playing when the last Marine was well under the table.

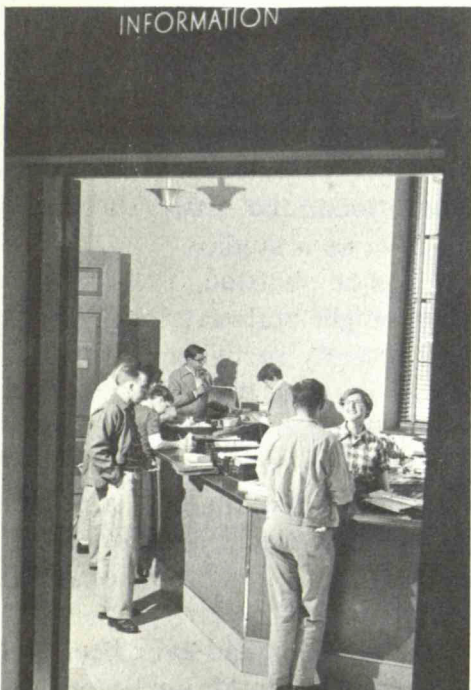
HAPPY NEW YEAR

It has happened once before, but this time the Bursar's Office had advance warning. When the tousled Peruvian student turned up with his entire tuition and board in the form of silver dollars, Chief Hokanson had on hand several solemn guards in case, as he put it, "the boy came waltzing down the hall with the stuff heaped in a wheelbarrow."

The M.I.T. Switchboard provides evidence of the nature of things on the first day of classes. On Monday, September 21, exactly 1,368 telephone calls were relayed to M.I.T. extensions beginning with the number "7" (including Registrar's, Information, and Admissions Offices), while at 134 different times during the day calls had to be turned away because every line in the 700's was busy. But the new year still got off to a smooth start. Although the situation in the Registrar's Office was tersely summed up as "hectic," no midnight oil was burned this year in starting permanent records for exactly 913 freshmen, adjusting and adding new ones for 5,244 upperclassmen and graduate students. The Information Office parted with more than 1200 catalogues inside of three days, met the questioning hordes with expert and patient efficiency. In the Schedules Office, last-minute changes (average, 50 per day) in the packed program for more than 200 classrooms were rapidly arranged, while telephones buzzed with such queries as "the final location of the 34th section in freshman physics."



Heigh ho silver



The questioning hordes

Photo Service established a new record by nabbing the entire freshman class in one day, boosted their total with upperclass newcomers to 1100 pictures taken in one week. The Admissions Office, in addition to furnishing for numerous visitors summaries of what to see and do around Boston, said hello to 249 new foreign students enrolled for the current year. The latter include one of M.I.T.'s first representatives from the country of Cambodia, and a notable plurality of "I's": Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, and Italy.

Nor was the situation any less busy outdoors. The M.I.T. Police--many of them new on the scene--received a flood of free lessons in the science of protecting M.I.T. parking lots from ingenious students without proper stickers. The new patrol car was also initiated to campus life. The first call came from West Campus--a frightened female voice asking the M.I.T. Force to "please remove an enormous dog that's terrifying the neighborhood." Turned out to be a full-sized great dane, frolicking happily and gently with all the West Campus kiddies in sight.

RUB-A-DUB-DUB

"She'll last for a good while, yet," says Elliot Flachbart (Lincoln Lab), member of the Veteran Fireman's Association of Marblehead which loaned its trophy-laden "hand pumper" to the exhibit in the main lobby. Elliot reports that the Gerry, now well over 100 years old, remains a top contender in New England musters, outpumped a modern engine at the Boston Navy Yard just two years ago. For such a feat an astounding array of personnel is needed: nozzle-hefters (several), wind direction flaggers, hose holders, and anywhere from 45-60 brawny pumpers. Elliot's position on the crew: "back on the tub," he says cheerfully, "holding the hose in the water reservoir."

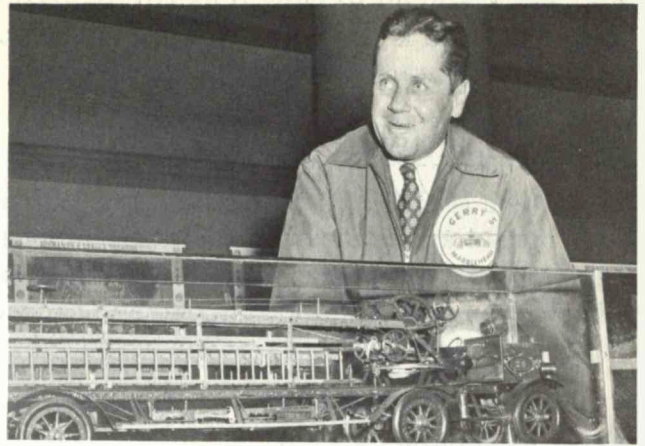
The exhibition, which will run until Saturday, was organized by the M.I.T. Safety Committee as part of Fire Prevention Week. The assorted pipes, hose, steam pumpers, helmets, and other antique paraphernalia shows how far the sleek engines of the present have come. But they aren't just curiosity items. With the national annual loss due to fire headed this year for an all-time high of more than a billion dollars, civic officials everywhere are stumping for greater citizen know-how in prevention techniques. The Safety Committee adds an energetic voice to the campaign, urges increased vigilance on and off the M.I.T. campus.

A SHARP CARD

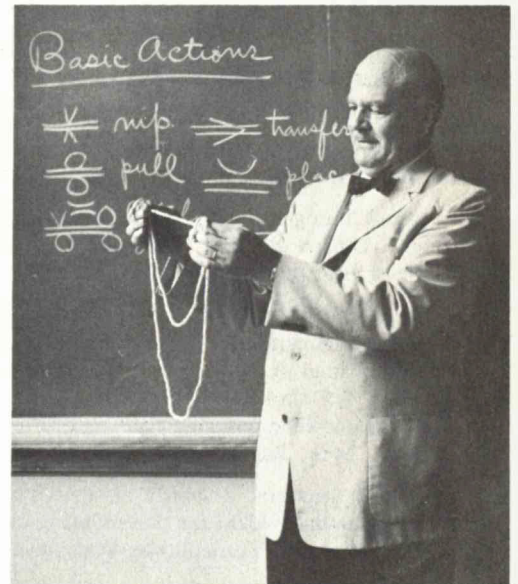
"Today there's hardly a genuine fibre left," says Professor Edward Schwarz, head of M.I.T.'s Textile Technology Division. "It's always cotton or wool and something." For most people this means a happy opportunity to keep the ironing board in the closet. But for Prof. Schwarz, who literally began the field of textile technology, it means combing the world of wonder fabrics with microscope and spectrograph to see what all the new fibres are really up to.

"So far," explains Prof. Schwarz, "all the emphasis has been on mechanization -- and this has been accomplished remarkably fast in the textile industry." Now what is needed, he says, is observation to help the industry to improve the usefulness and variety of their products through a real understanding of fibre behavior. In line with this object, Prof. Schwarz has been busy these last months explaining to the textile experts of the U.S. and Great Britain his new system of shorthand. System covers, in its 22 squiggling symbols, all the basic fibre actions now known to exist in the making of different fabrics. By rearranging them and playing games with different combinations, Prof. Schwarz can explain all that goes on behind warp and woof with a scientific accuracy and brevity undreamed of before.

The hieroglyphics are only one example of Prof. Schwarz' remarkable knack for making his ideas stick. A polished magician, he is apt to demonstrate the finer points of a lecture with some fast sleight of hand and a piece of string. He has been known to end formal addresses with poetry -- written by himself. (A number of Schwarz verses have made their debut in print.)



Pumper studies newer models



Schwarz, shorthand, and string

And as consultant to numerous fire departments and chairman of the M.I.T. Safety Council, Prof. Schwarz keeps a lively store of ammunition to infect others with his life-long interest in plant engineering and problems of safety.

HERE AND THERE

To the M.I.T. Catholic Club: the 1957 Federation Cup for top performance, in diversity of program and leadership qualities, among 713 Newman Clubs in the United States. The credit, says M.I.T. Chaplain Edward Nugent, goes to "the most intelligent and enthusiastic students I have ever seen on any campus" and to "the many M.I.T. employees who have always played such a big part in Newman Club activities."

The M.I.T. Solar House, nearing completion in Lexington, popped out in full color on the cover of Popular Science, October issue. The house also won a Sunday feature in the Boston Herald -- an article which gave credit, among others, to M.I.T. solar experts "r, iewtyPeJ ateeg .nol ail, 1 hk. AND J. Kaye."

The Faculty Rifle and Pistol Club -- but mostly pistols as it turns out -- invites all M.I.T. personnel interested in target shooting to ride the Rifle Range (beside Alumni Pool) this Thursday at 5:15 p.m. Qualifications for membership: any kind of marksmanship, as long as it's safe, plus sustained interest in club activities. For those who can't make the meeting, the welcome mat is out every Tuesday and Thursday night.

FOR SALE ETC.

'55 Olympia portable typewriter. Excellent cond. Just overhauled. \$70. Shirley Jenkins, Ext. 2183 (Room 4-051).

Hermes Rocket light-weight portable typewriter. Almost unused. \$50. Ext. 2640 (Room 14-N438).

Complete selection of V-M fine quality phonographs and tape recorders, from portables to console models. Reasonably priced. Bob Sprich, Box 544, East Campus.

10-pc. walnut dining room set, including 6 chairs with leather seats (blue). Gibson electric push-button stove. Originally \$400. \$100 or best offer. MI3-6369.

9 x 12 blue & tan Oriental rug, small arm chair & slipcover, Hoover upright vacuum cleaner, electric iron, 2 pairs size 10 D ski boots (men's), golf clubs (wood, matched irons, putter & bag), 7x7 Umbrella tent, two lightweight steel frame camp cots, Underwood portable typewriter. No reasonable offer refused. Mrs. Winter, Ext. 3370 or IV4-8539.

Arm chair with ottoman. Recently re-upholstered in rich red with silver threading. Ideal for den or playroom. \$35 or best offer. Dana, Ext. 5377 (Lincoln) or VO2-1943 (evgs).

'56 RCA Whirlpool Imperial Super-Speed gas drier (RCA's best model). Excellent cond. Must be sold since new residence has no utility gas. Dan Fox, Ext 5315 (Lincoln) or Room C-282d.

Webcor model 228 electronic dictating machine & transcriber with case. Original cost \$227. Will sell for \$70. Machine in good working order. Don Aufderheide, Ext. 456 (Lincoln) or RI2-1564.

50 Watt Dynakit amplifier. New \$69.75, now \$60. Stevens 12" coaxial speaker. New \$65, now \$50. Tom Hooker, Box 152, East Campus.

'41 Chrysler New Yorker. One owner. All new tires. Excellent mechanical cond. New Jersey inspected. Ext. 3115.

'50 Pontiac 4-dr sedan. Good cond. \$275. LA7-8395 (evgs).

"Perfect" '51 Nash Ambassador. 4 new nylon tires plus 2 snow tires on wheels. 20 MPG. Includes bed feature. Must see to appreciate. Del Underwood, Room 619C, Graduate House, Ext. 2962.

'53 Austin, excellent cond. Motor recently overhauled. Drives & looks like new. \$575. CR4-7611 or 86 South Rd., Bedford.

'55 Ford country sedan. Low mileage, clean, good cond. \$1590. Ext. 3386.

Business girl has large 4-rm Beacon Hill apartment to share. Hi-Fi, 2 well-mannered cats. Ext. 789 or RI2-3078 (evgs).

Apartment for rent. Somerville. 2nd floor. 5 lg sunny rooms, steam heat by coal, new white cabinet sink, lg rear porch. Convenient to M.T.A. Adults only. No pets. Avail. Oct. 15. \$55/mo. MO6-2737 or SO6-0986.

House for sale. Belmont. 7 rooms: study, $\frac{1}{2}$ B, LR, DR, K, 3 BR. Double garage. Excellent cond. 4% mortgage possibly avail. \$21,200. Ext. 4201 or WI6-1292.

Wanted: car pool riders to M.I.T. From Wellesley: Arrive 9 a.m., leave 5:15 p.m., C. E. Slye, Ext. 761 or WE5-2058M (evgs). From vicinity of Roslindale Sq. or West Roxbury: Arrive M.I.T. before 9 a.m., leave 5 p.m., Edna Pacht, Ext. 3347 or FA5-6723 (evgs). From vicinity of Mansion Inn, Wayland (Route 30): Arrive M.I.T. before 8 a.m., leave 5 p.m., Don Callahan, Ext. 763 or Trinity 2-9528 (evgs).

Nancy Dove, out sick last week, missed lots of calls for her 3 "short-haired domestic" (alley type) kittens. She says please call again, Ext. 3117.