MAS.SACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



Unbelievvvv-able.....

C'EST BELLE

Marie-Cecile Coqueugnot (C.I.S.) had been studying English since the age of 10 when she first came to this country a year ago from Paris. But the twanging drawl she ran into at the University of Texas was something far removed from the niceties of her grammar books. Marie was sent to Texas on a Fulbright Fellowship. Her field: international relations.

"I learned about Mexico and Central America, "she says, laughing. "But the Texans -- all they care about is Texas. And their ideas about the French! It is unbelievvvv-able." Marie adds that of the 20,000 students at the University, 700 were foreign students. Of the latter, says Marie, about 699 were Arabs and South Americans studying oil. She was the <u>only</u> representative from France.

Marie also learned something about cowboys. "They ride so fast and so well," she says, breathlessly. "I was horribly scared. The ranches -- they are sooooo big. And the deers and the skunks wandering about.

I have not seen anything like them before. But of course it is always too hot. And the landscape -- it is spectacular but sooooo depressing."

After eight months in Texas, Marie still had two months left on her visa. Determined to see New England, she signed up at the M.I.T. Center for International Studies. Marie is equally enthusiastic about the Center and about the city of Boston. "People know something here," she says with emphasis. "And the world is to them more than Massachusetts." Between lots of concerts and general sightseeing, Marie has even found time for an excursion to Cape Cod. "It is soooo tiny," says the former Texan, "but very nice."

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There's one thing about M.I.T.'s private versions of the <u>Mayflower</u> that can't be said about their full-sized twin (not identical) now at rest in New York Harbor. They may be blown over by a vacuum cleaner, but they'll never be buffeted by zany pleasure craft.

To be exact, M.I.T. has two <u>Mayflowers</u> -- one under glass (Nautical Museum) and one on the bench (Ship Model Shop). The museum model was made by the late James R. Jack, head of the Naval Architecture Department from 1920-1936. The description of the model begins bravely: "Except that the <u>Mayflower</u> was old and leaky, very few details are known of this famous vessel...." So few, in fact (and there are still many unanswered questions today), that after he had completed the model Prof. Jack was persuaded by a friend that the "transom stern" he had put onto her belonged to a later period. Whereupon he began on an amended version, worked with beautiful woods and craftsmanship, which unfortunately he did not live to finish.

With big doings on the Plymouth Plantation this year, Prof Evers Burtner (Naval Arch.) decided that the time was ripe to complete the model. Selwyn Blake, model-maker for the department and an authority on sea serpents and whales as well, was chosen for the job. Mr. Blake had been fascinated by the shipping down and around Providence where he grew up.



New interest in an old model

He bought his first model when he was 10, started making his own as a hobby, and before coming to M.I.T. was head of the model shop in Bliss'marine hardware store on Atlantic Ave. He has eight home-made models in his own house, among them a four-foot clipper ship.

Mr. Blake will be spending his spare minutes on the new model for some time to come. If you want to combine an interesting excursion with a breath of cool air, you can go down to the basement of Bldg. 5 (Room 034) and watch Mr. Blake shuffle spars, sand down minute hatch covers, and drill microscopic holes with a pin-sized drill in M.I.T.'s second Mayflower.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For those gourmets who call our standard white bread so much cotton fluff, Prof Robert Harris (Food Tech) has a new rebuttal. With the help of three other laboratories outside of M.I.T., Dr. Harris analyzed "by chemical, microbiological, and fluorometric methods" the nutrient content of 37 samples of bread from 13 different countries. In each case, he tried to pick the "most typical" loaves of the countries selected. Whole wheat varieties, accounting for less than 10% of the total sales in all countries, were not sampled. From the U.S.: enriched white made with whole milk. (To "enrich" bread, special nutrients -- lost in the flour extraction process -- are added to the dough just before baking.)

This spot study, says Prof. Harris, is not broad enough to be conclusive. But a certain order does emerge which may some day be substantiated by further research. In terms of the nutritional value of individual loaves, the top-ranking country was Finland, followed by the U.S., Switzerland, Austria, and the Philippines. The rankings by bread type: enriched white (most nutritious), rye, semi-white, combined wheat-rye, and unenriched white.

Prof. Harris made this information public at a Convention of Home Economists in St. Louis. After the speech he was informed, amid cheers, that a new dessert had been named in his honor. "Gateau Chocolate Robert" is no quick out-of-the-freeze proposition. It calls for lemon rind, apricot nectar, brown sugar, fudge sauce, layer cake, vanilla ice cream. How to put them together? From a quick glance at the recipe all we can remember is the brief, but dramatic, reminder: "Add rum and ignite."

CHIPS OFF AN OLD BLOCK

Some people use a clam rake to dig clams, but Mary White (High Voltage Lab) swung hers over the moors of Cape Cod and came home with a bucketful of glass. Site of the digging party: the remains of the Sandwich Glass Factory which, from 1825 to 1888, produced some of the finest glass of the period. Specializing in everything from "pin dishes" to elaborately cut vases and colored perfume jars, the factory turned out a vast assortment of glassware, valued in toto at more than thirty million dollars. (Original specimens can be seen in the Sandwich Museum



Sandwich specials: dug and purchased

certain antique shops in the area, and in the corridor of Bldg.

^{4).} Mary's collection consists mostly of fragments, though she did find one sizeable piece of a bowl, still encased in its original mold, which she donated to the Gray Gables Inn on Buzzards Bay. "Looks as if they came straight from the Five and Ten," she says, poking through the rough, colored chips, "until you start studying them." And studying is what Mary intends to do as soon as she locates some good literature on the subject.

A secretary in the HighVoltage Lab for 10 years (she calls the Van de Graaff generator " a sensible atom smasher"), Mary has other interests besides glass. Under the blotter on her desk is evidence of one of these. There she keeps a geological time table, "for reference," she says cheerfully, "on dinosaurs and fossils." Mary herself owns a threetoed dinosaur track (Plateosaurus), preserved in shale, which she bought in South Hadley (Mass.). One time she brought the relic to M.I.T. to show to her High Voltage friends in Bldg.46. The next day she arrived at the Lab to find every hollow in the cement floor transformed to huge dinosaur footprints -the artistry of mammalian friends of a much smaller size.

TRIUMVIRATE

Following on the heels of a major coordinating effort in the realm of academic, service, and research administration are some changes in M.I.T.'s personnel office set-up. Beginning September 1, all matters of personnel policy will be centralized in a new Office of Personnel Relations. Under the direction of Malcolm Kispert, Administrative Vice Chancellor, the Office will have policy and procedural responsibility for all M.I.T. personnel except the academic staff. Three men will be in charge of the new office. Each will handle a different area of personnel administration.

Robert J. Davis, Director of Union Relations, and therefore all policies affecting hourly paid personnel.

Harold E. Dreyer, Coordinator of Personnel Services, and especially those concerning wages and salaries, training programs, benefits, etc.

Albert F. Sise, Director of Salaried Personnel Relations, which includes scientific, engineering, administrative, and office workers.

A word of introduction about the newest member of this trio. Mr. Davis, who has been director of union relations at Lincoln Lab for just over a year, brings to his new post industrial relations experience with U.S.Steel, Kaiser Steel, American Potash and Chemical Corp., the A.E.C. Lab at Los Alamos, and the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington. Born in Arizona, raised and schooled in Virginia, and married to a Georgian (U.S.), Mr. Davis lists golf, trout-fishing, bridge, and poker as his outside interests, but first and foremost the raising of a new Davis tribe (3 children) in Westwood.



Bob Davis

HERE AND THERE

With the finals scheduled for August 19-23, the ten teams in the M.I.T. Summer Softball League are battling harder than ever. In the lead, at the moment, are some old hands who captured the softball crown last year. Managed by Bill Scouler and Norman Lebel, both graduate students, the Chem Department nine is now riding a happy record of eight wins, no losses. Tied for second are the Instrumentation Lab and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, both with records of 6-2. Not so fortunate are the humble Metallerrors who, with a record of eight forfeits out of eight games scheduled, now occupy the cellar.

Like all military service personnel, the teaching staff for M.I.T's ROTC program never knows what kind of geography it will be getting acquainted with next. In the Air Science Department five new AF officers, scheduled to start teaching this Fall, have just completed assignments in Tripoli, Paris, Germany, Japan, and Michigan respectively.

More honors for M.I.T. sailors. Skipper Dennis Posey('58) and his crew of Bill Blaiklock ('58) and Paul Barber (Instrum. Lab) two weeks ago won the 1957 Massachusetts Bay Senior Sailing Crown. In addition, M.I.T. students presently control two fleets of classy racers. Capt. Posey recently won the Atlantic Thistle Championships for the second year running, while George Kirk ('60) placed first in the New England Beetlecat Championships.

New graduates of a two-week summer session course in city and regional planning received mimeographed certificates listing their accomplishments at M.I.T.: "Resistance to ll0 decibels of noise generated by pneumatic drill. . . . Tolerance, for an entire breakfast period, of Class Z odors at Walton's. . . . Survival of a 7-hour bus trip through unplanned Metropolis. . . . Attendance at more than a score of un-coordinated meetings." As a final tribute, the departing travellers were awarded immediate entrance into the non-performing society of "Non-Conforming Planners."

From Japan, where they have spent most of their time under an umbrella, comes word of Dean & Mrs. Harold Hazen. "A tasty lunch of broiled eel and rice. . . . People continue to be surprised at our facility with chopsticks. . . . We were all eyes for the countryside -- rice paddies, thrifty-looking farmhouses, many workers in the fields with their flat conical hats and their raincoats. These were of two types. A few were baby blue transparent plastic. The others were virtually a woven-straw thatch shed-roof over the horizontal back of the worker. . . . Traffic was heavy, mostly commercial with trucks from five tons on down, the l-ton trucks being mostly 3-wheelers with motorcycle front end. . . . We left our shoes at the door and put on new slippers, procured specially to fit our out-size American feet."

FOR SALE ETC.

New Hamilton Beach Mixer. Never used. MI3-2073.

Furniture for sale: reclining lounge chair, lg. office desk (oak), studio couch, hassock, chest of drawers, mirror. Also Hallicrafters SX-43 Receiver. Mike Brady, KE6-3126 or Ext. 3619.

Modern dining-room chairs, set of 4 or 6. Extremely reasonable. H. Simpson, Ext.173.

Motor scooter. Excellent cond. Best offer. I.M.Puffer, Ext. 896.

Enjoy the summer months with a '50 Buick Super 8 convertible. Top condition--recently overhauled. New top & tires. R&H. Reasonable. Bobbie Parker, Ext. 2995. '51 Hillman 4-door sedan: \$200. Also '55 3 hp Evinrude: \$50. Ext. 3124.

'52 Oldsmobile 88 hydromatic. R&H. Low mileage. Good cond. Wm. Stewart, BI4-5191.

'52 Plymouth 4-door sedan. Grey. Cheap. Ed Kapp, Ext. 2793.

House for sale. Cotuit (Cape Cod). 8 rms, including 4 BR, 2B, elec. K., garage, barn. Oil heat & hw. 3/4 acre. Completely furnished. Asking \$22,000. A.G.Hebb, BI4-3816.

Wanted: 5-7 hp outboard motor. Erwin Schowengerdt, Ext. 383 (Lincoln).

Tech Talk is published every two weeks. Send news and ads to Miss Richardson, Rm. 3-339, Ext. 2709. Next deadline: Aug. 21.