

# TECH TALK TECH TALK TECH TALK TECH TALK

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

May 2, 1968

## WHAT IS AN ARCHIVE?

MIT is beginning to find out with both pleasure and curiosity. The dictionary describes it as "a place in which public records or historical documents are preserved," but people tend to think of archives as a rather dusty attic where a miscellany of items gradually crumble over the years. Nothing could be further from the truth.

MIT's Archives occupies the balcony of the Reserve Book Room in Hayden Library, but has overflowed into several rooms in the basement. The only dusty exhibits it has are items that have been recently acquired and are awaiting repair and cataloging. Once Eleanor Bartlett, Archives Librarian, and her two enthusiastic assistants, Linda McLaughlin and Roni Spohn, get to them, dust is banished forever, dates and identifications are found and permanent preservation begins. Then, in five years or fifty, when someone wants to know, for instance, how the Department of Civil Engineering began, the material will be readily available.

That so much old information--even dating from our days in Boston--has been preserved so far, is a credit to a historically minded young lady, Julia Comstock, who arrived at the Institute in 1892 when much of the material was still fresh. She

stayed at MIT for sixty years, and when she retired she left a very solid beginning for the Archives.

The Archives continued to evolve as a sort of unofficial branch of the Libraries until 1960 when it was formally established. In 1966, Professor E. Neal Hartley was appointed Institute Archivist and a vigorous acquisitions program started.

What goes into Archives? Any form of material in any condition that helps to show how the Institute operated at a given point of time. All Institute publications --even TT--are collected as they are issued and later bound into volumes. Other valuable items are the inactive records of the Schools and departments and of individual Institute officers and faculty members. Professor Hartley and Miss Bartlett urge departing faculty and staff members to cull personal papers from their files, then send the remainder to Archives.

The Archives treats all incoming material as confidential until properly arranged. Certain files are, in effect, sealed for the next fifty years by agreement with donors concerned about people and programs still in existence.

Archives are not for browsing, but most materials are available to historians and scholars seek-



Roni and Linda on part one of a huge picture sorting project.

ing documentation at the source of one or another facet of the life story of MIT. Turn up with a specific question or point of interest and the ladies in Archives will promptly provide a cheery reply and reliable information.

### ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT...

For those of us who aren't going to be able to make the scene at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, there'll be a preview of some of the action on the Charles during the next few months. The U.S. Olympic Rowing Committee approved the establishment of two training centers for potential Olympic oarsmen. One of them is MIT's Pierce Boathouse; the other is at the University of Washington in Seattle.

At the close of school, when the boathouse normally slows down for the summer, there will be an influx of up to two dozen rowers who will keep the shells and skulls busy until the Olympic trials in September. Coach at the MIT center will be Jack Frailey who, as head crew coach here, has led frequently successful MIT teams to such heights as the Thames Challenge Cup at England's Henley Regatta. All in all, life along the riverbank ought to be exciting to watch this summer.

### PREMIERE

On Sunday (May 5) the MIT Choral Society will present the first Boston performance of Bartok's "Cantata Profana," a work based on an old Roumanian folk tale, as part of its spring concert. Members of the Boston Symphony and guest soloists will join the Choral Society for the program which also includes Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms" and the Mass in E-minor of Brückner. The concert begins at 8:30 and seats (at \$3 and \$2) may be reserved at the Kresge Box Office, Ext. 2910.

### ONLY YESTERDAY

Or so it seems to more than thirty Institute people who last week became members of the Silver and Quarter Century Clubs. The Silver Club convened on April 22 at the Faculty Club to introduce its seven new members and get a glimpse of life in India from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dagnese of Hayden Library who spent 1967 at the Birla Institute of Technology. New members are: Alice Aucella of RLE, Constance Boyd of the MIT Press, Elizabeth Campbell of LNS, Josephine FitzGerald of the Medical Department; Madeleine Heyman of Meteorology; Florence Mathes of the Bursar's Office; and Dorothea Scanlon of Project MAC.

The Campus Room at Ashdown House had a capacity crowd last Friday as the ranks of the Quarter Century Club swelled with 25 new members at the annual men-only dinner. New members on-campus are: Edward W. Bean, Arthur E. Berg, Leo Bertolami, Frank J. Bunick, Philip Burke, William E. Cecconi, Harold W. Coghlan, Marcus O. Elder, Stewart R. Godfrey, John J. Hutchinson, John B. Keefe, Charles Navedonsky; D. Cosmo Papa, Steven A. Ricci, Robert K. Walcott and Oliver F. Yearwood.

Lincoln and Instrumentation were well represented by new men, too. From Lincoln they are: Rodney N. Blake, Lewis C. Engstrom, Francis B. Magurn, Charles Rowe, Jr., and Albert P. Tufts. Those from Instrumentation are: Franklin Bidwell, Francis McAvinney and Charles Olson.

### OPEN INVITATION

The annual Awards Convocation will be held this Saturday afternoon at 3:45 in Kresge Auditorium, to which everyone is invited. President Johnson will address the convocation and present the first James N. Murphy Award.



MIT's oarsmen off for practice on the still-chilly Charles.

### PSYCHEDELIC LUNCH

In a somewhat undercover operation performed last weekend, the sandwich machine area of Building 7 was transformed into a description-defying colorama. Gone are the dull grey walls, replaced by lavender, mustard, crimson and chartreuse--to name a few. As Tech Talk went to press, several students were hard at work building a spiral conversation-lunching nook to complete the area. A comment book hanging near the elevator contains mostly favorable reviews of the redecoration, but someone also has written, "How about another different, quieter place for different, quieter people."

## AD-DLED

There has been widespread interest, and some anger, in the notice that TT ads would, for the time being, use only Institute extensions and tie-lines. The reason for the restriction is simply to get in as many ads for MIT people as possible while the academic year is drawing to a close. People at MIT are friendly and helpful and Tech Talk almost always comes to mind when some friend wants to sell a car or sublet an apartment.

Because the ads are a free service intended just for the MIT community, using extensions seems to be the only way to eliminate ads which come from outside. The notice on page four will inform you when the restriction is lifted.

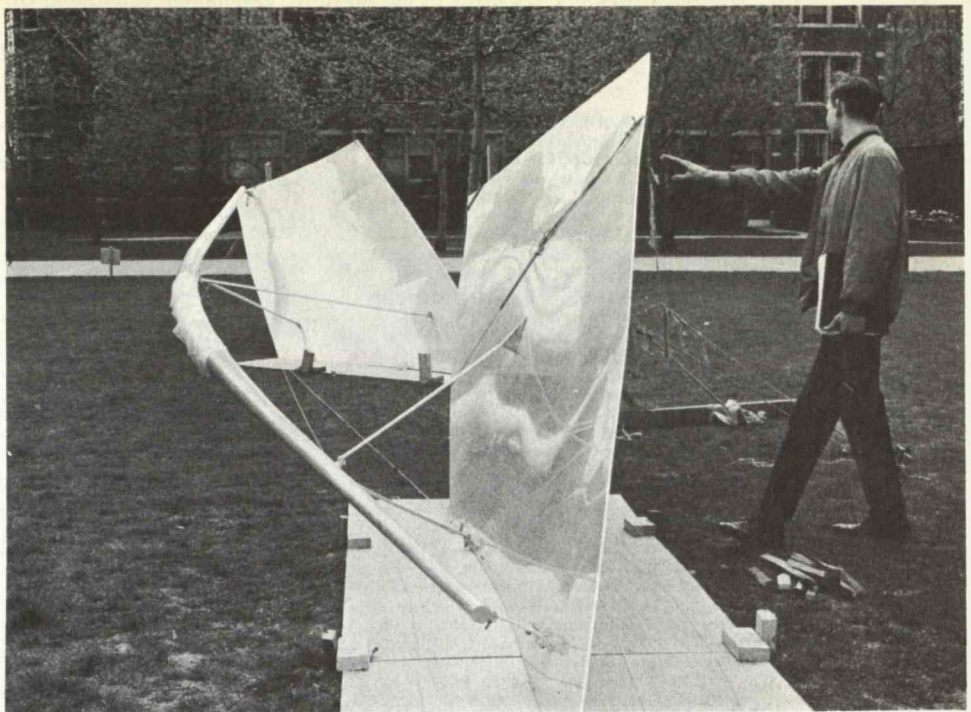
The ads in this issue still make free use of outside telephone numbers. Beginning with the May 15 issue, any outside numbers listed are those of registered undergraduates.

## ELIZABETHAN EVENINGS

For lovers of costume and wit, there's a rare treat in the Little Theatre this weekend. The MIT Dramashop is presenting Ben Jonson's "Epicoene, or the Silent Woman," on Friday and Saturday evenings (May 3 and 4) at 8:30. Tickets for the performances are \$1.50 and may be reserved at the Kresge Box Office, Ext. 2910.

## THOSE CRAFTY WOMEN

The MIT Dames are at it again. On Friday (May 3), Maclaurin Lobby will once more blossom with the results of their handiwork. Included in the crafts sale are pottery, clothing, paintings, jewelry and many more items. The sale begins at 8:15 and lasts until 2:15. It's an easy place to find a unique graduation present.



Getting settled on the Stratton Center lawn: our newest acquisition

## EYE-OPENER

A small, neatly typed notice appeared on the walls of the Hayden corridor a couple of weeks ago, reading:

Title: Wall  
Artist: MIT Physical Plant  
Materials: Plaster on fire brick

From the collection of Howard Johnson

It was a spoof, but it helps to point up the complicated preparations being made for one of the most important and arresting shows the Committee on the Visual Arts has brought to campus to date.

The show going up this week, for opening on May 10, is "The Park Place Group," which will overlap the Gallery and its court into the Rogers Lobby and across the street on the Stratton Center Plaza. The Park Place Group--no longer in existence--was a cooperative of thirteen painters and sculptors whose work, though frequently dissimilar in nature, all falls into the category of "minimal art." In this school, the artists do as little as possible to make changes in space, and the result is very simple paintings and primary structures is sculpture.

First on the the scene last week was an untitled aluminum sculpture on the Stratton Center lawn by David Von Schlegell which also is the most recent MIT acquisition. Like many of the works in the exhibit, this structure was conceived with the Institute in mind.

Because of the size of many of the pieces, the exhibit will be up from now until mid-September. On the Stratton Plaza, there will be no fewer than six rather large sculptures, including a 24-foot "traffic yellow" tower near the entrance to Kresge. The length of the show will allow all of the Institute's rotating summer visitors--not to mention tourists--to see it, and will give all of us an opportunity to look and look again and try to get acquainted.

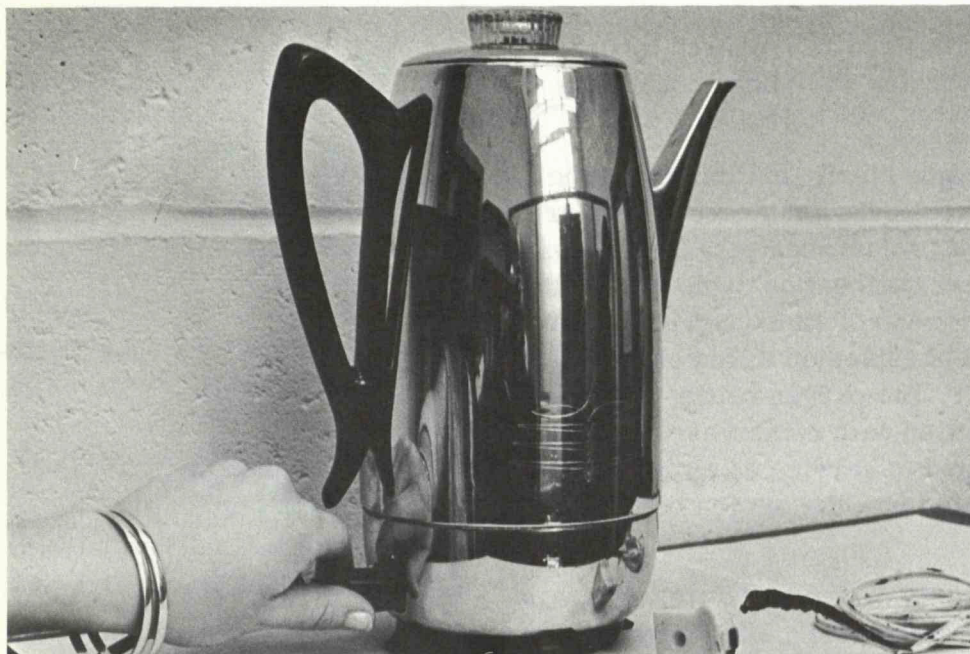
## OUT OF THIS WORLD

That's where Apollo is headed later this year with two former MIT-ers, David Scott and Russell Schweickart, aboard.

FOR SALE, ETC.

Mexican classical guitar, made in Paracho, \$200 or best. Ext. 292 EDC.  
Dual 109 trntrl, base, dust cover & buf, Pickering V-15 cart, clip stylus, less than yr old, list over \$150, asking \$95. Joan, 868-2146 evgs.  
Upper Story Spisa-ribb Swed china for 8, was \$104, now \$70. Call 862-6826.  
C-flat mel saxophone, \$40; Servel 8 cu ft refrig, \$20; 3 1/2 hp outbd motor, \$20. Ext. 2817 CEA.  
Free: 1/2 Siamese kittens to good homes. X5887 or 284-7886.  
Honda '66 4-spd, red, exc cond, \$125 min. Call 646-2477.  
HQ140X recvr, \$90; Challenger xmtr & Johnson VFO, \$60; both \$140. Bill, X7060.  
'67 BMW R-60, lg tank, all extras, Craven Dolomite panniers, 9.6K. Call 868-9194 evgs.  
Lawn roller, \$8; mower, \$10; wheel barrow, \$4; 28' alum ext ladder, \$13; K cabs, 25 cu ft, \$35; 50"x2 1/2" nylon stair carpet, reas. Call 484-8139.  
Mini French poodles w/papers. EX 5-7265.  
Sears '67 camp trlr, mod 600, w/custom add-a-room, \$600 firm. Call 862-2899.  
Sealpt Siamese kittens w/papers. Call 648-6309.  
Smith-Corona typwr, \$20; 4 chrome spinners for Chevy, \$20; 3 elec irons, \$10. FA 5-9236.  
Lg Early Amer maple tbl & 6 ch, perf cond. Call BE 2-5792.  
Jawa '66 touring bike, 250cc, low mi, easy upkeep, comf, 2 cyc, \$345. Nat, X6876.  
Pr 6.70x15 tires, nearly new, \$12 ea. X4011.  
Vespa '61 150, nds minor repairs, \$50; Olivetti port typwr, fair, \$20. Don, X2173.  
Dyna SCA-35 integrated amp, fac wired, \$90; Scott 350D tuner w/wal enc, \$125; Garrard Lab 80 chgr, \$70. Jeni, X2102 or 924-3964 evgs.  
Beaut mongrel pups, 10 of them, raised w/kids & cats. UN 4-7739.  
Snojet '67 snowmobile, 20hp, 2 cyc, 2-str, exc cond, trlr incl, \$775. A. Kashita, X7291 Linc or 683-6993.  
Honda S90, exc cond, \$270. Call 734-5389.  
Bsmt cleaning: old oak ice box; wicker ch; crocks, canning jars; child's iron bed; spiroton, much more. Call 445-4857.  
AKC reg golden retriever puppies. CE 7-9796.  
Free: gerbils. Denis Buso, X6872 or 864-0382.  
Minolta SR7-V5, built-in mtr, 50mm f/1.4 Rokkor & 28mm auto f/3.5 Rokkor, \$195; 2 spkrs w/horn tweeters, 12" woofer teak encs, \$50. Call 646-0924 evgs.  
Hand lawnmower, Sears best, used 2 yrs, best offer. Warren, X3969.  
Chest of drws, \$12; 2 bkcases, \$8 ea; 16"x41" tbl, \$5; 2 Roberts hi-fi stereo spkrs, \$50 or best. Call 876-3431 evgs.  
Soligor Sensor exp mtr, gd cond, was \$19, asking \$8. Bob Markiewicz, X3279.  
Wedding gown, 8-9, w/headpiece & train, never worn, only \$68. Call 547-6612 evgs.  
Pr sliding louvered closet doors, 2'x6'6", w/track & hrdware, \$15. X5551.  
Camp trlr, Starmaster, sleeps 8, roof rack, canopy, gas bottle, etc, \$795; boat & motor, 14' alum car top, enam fin, holds 5, \$225. X4339.  
Rotisserie, like new. Call 782-3428.  
Port oven broiler, \$20; 3-spd port window fan, \$25. Peter, X2888.  
Raleigh '65 motorbike, dual seat, rack, pillion, auto, \$98. Jim Hudson, X4070.  
Cof, vanity, util tabs; lg fl lamp, \$10; tbl lamp, \$3; bird cage, \$2; bkcase, \$5; hvy cush chaise lounge, like new, \$20. Call 232-0484.  
Sm motorbike '66, 50cc, 200 mpg, 45 mph, \$85. Les, X3530.  
Pearson Ariel fiberglas sloop, 26', exc cond, main, jib, genoa, pulpit, 10hp Evinrude, equip for cruising. X6302 or 729-3144.  
Dyna Mark IV hi-fi amp, 40w RMS, mono, br new output tubes, \$35. X2891.  
Wedding gown, 10-12, worn once, \$90. X5692.  
Dyna PAS-2X and stereo 70, work perf, \$120/pr; AM-FM-MPX tuner, exc, \$60. Chris, X6763 or 742-5037 evgs.  
O'Day sea snark, 14' fiberglas, sloop-rigged. Call Dover 785-0421 evgs.  
US Army uniforms, 39 long, 40 long, dress blues, army tans, khakis, fatigues, 1/2 price for all. Stanley Wolf, 868-5501.  
Andrea port stereo, exc cond, br new needle, \$80. George, X4944.  
Carpets, 9x12 & 7x9, runner 30"x7", yr old, less than 1/2 price. Call 438-1056 evgs.  
Motorola 22" mahog fl mod TV, exc cond, new tube w/guar, \$69. Walt, 254-8998 evgs.  
Pickering V15 AMI cart, new, \$15 or best. X694 Linc.  
Sea Bird 18' sloop-rigged centerbd, 3 suits sails, \$425 as is or \$500 in water next month. X2704.  
Eng block for Mercedes 220S, exc cond. Call 547-8698.  
Port typwr, script, \$55; auto slide proj, \$65; Nikon F w/2 lenses, \$350; mono hi-fi comps, \$25; 8' fiberglas dinghy w/new 4 hp motor, \$150. Sudbury 443-2601.  
Yamaha '67 350cc, 2300, best offer. X5124.  
Honda '64 Super Hawk, \$400 or best. X4498.  
Mod 25-80 Diatomite spin filter & 10' plastic swim pool, \$100; pr Heath wireless intercoms, \$20. P. Gelzinis, X695 Linc.  
Honda '66 50cc Sport, 2 helmets & conver. Bob, 522-4330.  
Lawson-type gr couch, red tween uphol ch w/ottoman, lthr-top cof tbl & end tbls, 9x12 grey broadloom rug, \$50. X5447 Linc or WA 4-2288 evgs.  
Harley-Davidson '67 900cc XLH sportster, elec start, 3.5K, \$1400. WA 4-4151.  
Folding bed, gd cond, new \$30, now, \$10. Call 484-9591.  
Dining tbl, leaf, 4 ch, newly refin & reuphol, \$50; new records, tapes & racks, make offer. Call 864-4252.  
Twin baby carriage, stroller, made in Eng, \$40 or best. Call 893-2126.  
Brownie Scout outfit, 6X, dress, cap, tie, purse, sox, kerchief, exc cond, \$4 for all. X5208 or 484-7171.  
Dyna Mk III 60w amp, Pan-1 preamp, exc cond. David Perlman, 491-3488.  
Umbrella 9x12 tent, \$25 firm; Coleman stove, 2-brnr, \$7; Eveready shallow well piston pump, 25 gal tank, \$25; Ford trlr hitch, \$5. Conover, X2169.  
GE 16" TV, 2 yrs old, like new, all channel, \$70. X6200 or 332-0995.  
Twin foldable bed; dining set, best offer. Call 868-4935.  
'47 Ford, '59 Ford, \$25 ea. Call 235-8485.  
'58 Mercedes mod 219, \$400. Attahi, X4685.  
'58 VW sedan, R, new eng, clutch, tires, etc, \$400. X2288.  
'59 Chevy 6 cyl, auto, cheap trans, \$75 or best. Bob, X5575.  
'59 Ram American, runs, practically rebuilt, \$50 or best. Jeff Dodson, X2961.  
'61 VW, '66 eng, R&H, exc cond, \$500 or best. Michael, X6655.  
'61 Olds 4-dr hrdtp, auto, rec replaced trans, brake, muffler. Call 259-9592 evgs.  
'61 Pontiac Bonneville hrdtp, ex gd cond, p st & br, etc, \$700. X4116.  
'61 Corvair Monza coupe, 37K, auto, like new, \$350. X2614.  
'62 Valiant parts, was in reck. Call 324-2498 evgs.  
'62 MG Midget convert, exc cond, just overhauled, new parts, windshield, etc, \$550. Call 696-6706 evgs.

'62 Ford Fairlane, \$400 or best offer. Patty, X3983.  
'62 Pontiac Le Mans convert, nds new br, otherwise exc cond, p st, auto, new tires, \$325 or best offer. Call 868-9022.  
'62 Fairlane 500, 4-dr, V-8, auto, \$450. X1156.  
'62 Comet, yr old eng, auto, R, gd tires & snow, best offer over \$600. X7170.  
'62 Karman Ghia convert, 6 mos old top, R&H, gd cond, best offer over \$590. X6698.  
'62 Buick Skylark convert, V-8, auto, p st, R&H, gd cond, \$1050 or best. X3866.  
'62 Falcon, 6 cyl, std, eng overhauled, new clutch, brakes, batt, etc, must sell, \$385. Mike, X6035 or 864-2870 evgs.  
'63 VW, gd cond, eng rebuilt, \$650 or best. X5946.  
'64 Corvair convert, gd cond, new throughout. Call 864-3788.  
'64 Fiat 1500 Spyder, Pirellis & snows, R, 30 mpg, 100 mph, starts at -10° F, \$1200. Mike, X2555.  
'65 Ford country sedan, V-8, 6 pass, auto, p st. Mrs. Kuchta, X4818.  
'65 Austin Healey 3000, beaut cond, one owner. Call 354-5043.  
'65 Mustang convert, V-8, auto, p st, 85K, 2-dr, \$1050. Steve, X1193.  
'66 Mustang, burgundy, exc cond, best offer. Larry, 491-7785.  
'66 Mustang, hi perf, SCCA specs, exc cond. Ed, X5053 or 846-6428.  
'66 VW sunrf, v gd cond, 25K, \$1050. Call 232-0208 evgs.  
Allston sublet w/opt mod 1-BR apt, air cond, carpeted, avail 6/1, nr T. X3707.  
Bk Bay sublet w/opt mod 1-BR apt, all elec K, Bkfast bar, fpLR-DR area, lg closets, avail 6/15, \$235 furn or \$195 unfurn. Call 262-2422 evgs.  
Bcn St sublet, lg LR, 2 BR, mod K, tile B, nr MIT, avail 5/1, \$225/mo. Call 262-3856 evgs.  
Bos, studio, 1399 Comm Ave, sublet 5/22, free pking, nr T, \$75/mo. X4978.  
Brk sublet mid June to 8/31, is \$133/mo, asking \$110. X5098.  
Camb sublet, walk to MIT, 4 rms, \$160 inc gas & ht. Pat, X5634.  
Camb, unfurn 4-rm apt, 2 BR, lg K&B, newly dec, avail June, \$300. Call 491-6152.  
Camb, nr Harv Sq, 2 1/2 semi-furn rms, \$85/mo, avail 6/1. Call 864-2537.  
Camb, sublet, 5 min to MIT, BR, LR, K&B, \$80/mo. Myron, X6383.  
Camb, Harv Towers, 1-BR air cond apt, balc, dish & disp, indoor pking, avail 7/1. Lenny, X6669 or 868-4722.  
Camb, sublet avail 5/1 or 6/1, mod 2-BR apt nr T, disp, air cond avail, 33 Lee St. Kay or Barbara, X5254 or 354-4698 evgs.  
Camb, nr Harv Sq, lg mod 1-BR apt avail 6/1, sublet w/opt. Call 864-6785.  
Camb, mod apt in new hi-rise, avail 6/1 w/opt, 2 BR, K, LR, balc (almost), dish & disp, pking avail, \$235 + util. X4934 or 868-0483.  
Sublet now til 9/1 mod furn apt, air cond, dish & disp, elec ht, balc, 2 BR, 3 min walk to B&M, on busline. Call 665-9481 evgs.  
Sublet w/opt art studio-wkshop, 2 BR apt, DR, K, B, furn in sum, \$175. Ed Dratz, X4710.  
Arl, 3-BR cape, 2 B, fin playrm, comb windows, avail now, \$27,500. Mr. Harrington, 648-4639.  
Dedham Vil, 14-rm house, early 1800's, 8 fp, 1/3 acre, \$53,000. X4322.  
Lex, 4-BR, LR, DR, sunporch, K&B, exc cond, gar, \$23,500 firm; Heath console TV; air cond, member Tech Aero Club, hi-fi equip. Call 861-9491.  
Wayland, sm ranch, 1.25 acre wided prime loc, 2 BR + den, LR, fam rm, screen porch, \$28,500. McDonald, X7548 or 358-7864.  
Woburn, 3-BR house, 2-car gar, shed, 1/2 acre, well maintained, \$25,900. Call 933-4278.  
Moody Beach, Wells, Me, contemp glass-front 3-BR ocean fr, \$2000/season, 6/8-9/7. Call 358-4827.  
Wellfleet Bay, lg new waterfront, lg LR, 3 BR, huge deck, priv beach, sailfish, \$1000/mo, avail June-Sept. Call 332-0145 evgs.  
So NH, cott, 3 BR, LR, cab K, lg lot, water frontage. Call 324-8427.  
Little Deer Is, Me, 3 BR, hot water, etc, beach, avail June and after 8/31, \$80. Call 491-3373.  
Harwich, Long Pond Cape Cod, 2-BR cott, sleeps 7, K, LR, screen porch, ht & hw, B, priv beach w/rowboat, X2140.  
Paris apt in exchange for Boston apt, May & June. Chris, 277-1587.  
Pocasset, 5-BR, sleeps 12, water view, 20' to beach, fpLR, porch, \$140/wk. X3906 or VI 3-7465 evgs.  
Nantucket bus & resid properties for sale by owner. Call 267-6378.  
York Beach, Me, mod 2 & 3 BR cotts, all conv, nr beach, ideal for kids, avail wkly & monthly. Call 489-1707.  
**WANTED & MISC.**  
Power mower, gd working cond. Damian, X5338.  
Movie projector, 8 mm regular. Dwight Jaffee, X3736.  
FOUND: MIT '69 class ring, man's, silver, presumed lost 11/67 in Waltham. John Ranier, X5338.  
Fem rmmate for apt nr Harv Sq, or sum sublet, \$75/mo. Call 491-4761.  
Crib. Call 862-6826.  
Carpets w/mats, 10x12, & 12x15 + long runner, beige and/or grey. X6745.  
Babies 3 to 4 1/2 mos for psych experiment for 2 consec wks, 1/2 hr each day. Kay Thomas, X5764.  
Fem rmmate for furn house in Camb, own rm, \$68.75/mo. Shirley, 547-3348 evgs.  
Left half Tigerama \$100 card, split winnings. Kenneth, X2396.  
Male rmmate for sum w/MIT grad student, 2 BR air cond apt w/pool in Arl, avail 6/1. Paul, X5069.  
Boy's 20" bicycle, X2683 or 325-9537.  
Child's wagon. Call 643-2040.  
Wedding gown, 5-7. X1157.  
Thesis typing. Pat, X2180.  
Male rmmate for sum to share w/2 grad students, \$60/mo. Ken, X5040.  
Sitter at your Camb home for 2 1/2 yr old girl, sum wkdays, 8:30 to 3 p.m. Call 547-0947 evgs.  
Boy's 10-spd bicycle. Mark, X5715.  
Good step-in ski bindings. Lee Seldon, X6707 or 491-6139.  
Interesting faces for portraits. Linda, X6545.  
Large aquarium. Bob, X1442.  
Typing, theses, reports, papers. Rita, X4201.  
Fem rmmate for furn Bk Bay apt, own rm, avail now. Call 266-6376.  
Ride, Dover-S. Natick to Camb, daily 9-5. X3364.  
Baby's crib & matt in gd cond. Call 734-7725.  
Two purrfect kittens (grey striped) wand pedigreed home(s). Anger, X7185.  
Exchange or buy coins & stamps. X6022 or 489-0814 evgs.  
Adorable tabby kittens need loving home, free. Call 665-2138.  
Silver certificates? What am I offered. Phyllis, X378 Linc.



A good grasp on the plug avoids a burnt-out cord.

## THAT LITTLE OLD COFFEE MAKER... YOU!

Electrical hazards are not always confined to the shops, laboratories and people who work with high voltages or unusual electrical equipment. The ordinary office contains a variety of electrical business machines and assorted appliances. Incidents over the past few months illustrate that these last mentioned items seem to be the greatest offenders. The photograph depicts just one of the hazards involved. The white electrical cord used on the coffee pot was shorted out because of continual pulling on the cord when removing the plug from the pot. While in use, the insulation on the cord becomes warm and can stretch when pulled, exposing the two wires. When the two wires touch each other a short in the line results. Fortunately, no one was injured.

A complete understanding of electricity is not necessary for one to recognize that electricity is potentially dangerous. A simple set of precautions for working with or around electricity should be established for the non-technically inclined. Some precautions are listed in the column at right.

## PERCHLORIC ACID

Perchloric acid, ( $\text{HClO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  or  $\text{HClO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), particularly the anhydrous type, ( $\text{HClO}_4$ ), is a hazardous chemical. Several laboratory explosions and fires involving its use have been reported, the latest being an explosion that occurred in the Boston area, which killed one person. Dangerously reactive, at ordinary temperatures

--When buying an appliance, make sure it has UL or FM approval on the appliance itself as well as on the cord. Select one with a plug that can be grasped firmly and safely when being disconnected.

--Always pull the plug out of the wall outlet before removing the plug from the appliance; when setting up, insert the plug into the appliance first, then plug the cord into the wall outlet.

--Make certain the wall outlet is adequately fused and grounded, and that the wall outlet is 110V and not some other voltage. This is particularly necessary in older Institute buildings where some of the labs have been converted into offices. If there are any questions in this regard, the Institute electricians will be happy to check them out.

--Appliance cords should be checked periodically for wear, nicks or fraying and if damaged, should be replaced immediately with the proper cord--not the type known as zip cord, but the special type recommended for that particular appliance.

--Keep coffee makers, hot plates, etc., on non-combustible surfaces.

--It's better to percolate the pot than the people.

72% perchloric acid acts as a strong non-oxidizing acid. At elevated temperatures (approximately 160°C, 320°F), it is an exceedingly strong and active oxidizing and dehydrating agent.

These properties and those of its derivatives account for its increasing popularity with chemists, biologists, metallurgists and nutritionists. In order to help Institute personnel become better acquainted with perchloric acid hazards, a special information bulletin on handling precautions has been prepared. It is available as a general brochure or as an insert for the Safe Talk Accident Prevention Guide. Call the Safety Office if you would like a copy. Excess and unwanted acid should be discarded via the waste chemical disposal service.

#### FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT\*

Pressurized gas bottles are so commonplace in research laboratories that the potential hazards in working with these containers are likely to be forgotten.

Cylinders containing compressed oxygen merit particular caution and respect. One of the most dangerous circumstances is that organic material, such as oil or grease, sometimes gets into the pressure vessel which can lead to a violent combustion explosion. This is graphically illustrated in the photograph of an oxygen container burst by a combustion explosion. This explosion killed one person and seriously injured several others. The oxygen bottle, completely exhausted of oxygen, had been refilled with compressed air from an ordinary compressor, then returned to service as an oxygen bottle. Oil from the compressor migrated into the oxygen bottle and the explosion resulted.

Almost equally hazardous is moisture in an oxygen bottle. Dry oxygen will not attack the steel wall of the container, but the presence of a small amount of moisture causes corrosion of the pressure vessel very rapidly, leading to failure of the vessel. The example in the picture shows evidences of both a combustion explosion of organic material and severe corrosive attack of the pressure vessel.

These are the primary reasons why oxygen cylinders should never be fully exhausted of their contents. If this does occur, it is urgent that the supplier be so advised.

Above all, remember, oil and oxygen do not mix.

#### OUT OF CONTROL

If given the opportunity, small incidents sometimes grow large. What should have been a relatively small fire recently developed into a several-hundred-thousand-dollar loss, almost completely ruining a university laboratory (not at MIT). It was caused by an accumulation of flammable solvents in the room.

A technician, pouring ethyl alcohol from a five-gallon (not safety) can into a beaker, dropped the can when the liquid suddenly ignited--probably because of a static spark. The spilled contents of the can spread the flame to several other five-gallon cans of solvent on the floor nearby. Flames from these additional volatiles quickly changed the incident from one which could be controlled by first aid fire fighting equipment into one which required several pieces of fire fighting apparatus. The fire, in fact, was not brought under control until the laboratory had suffered extensive damage.

There are two lessons to be learned from this unfortunate accident. One is the use of self-extinguishing safety cans for flammables; the other is limiting the amounts of flammable solvents on hand. Together they can greatly reduce losses from laboratory fires.

To assist in reducing available fuel for fires, the waste chemical disposal service will pick up waste solvents if you will call Ext. 4736 or 5246.



The result of a bad mix.