

Scientists Complete Synthesis of Man-Made Gene

MIT Scientists have completed the synthesis of the first man-made gene that is fully functional in a living cell. "Chemically synthesized genes will now be available for the controlled, systematic study of how the structure of a gene influences its function," said Nobel laureate Har Gobind Khorana, who directed the research.

Dr. Khorana and his co-workers announced in 1973 the synthesis of the structural part of the gene, which produces tyrosine transfer RNA. Now they have synthesized the start

and stop signals for the gene, which is found naturally in *E. coli* bacteria.

Dr. Khorana, who is the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Biology and Chemistry at MIT, said that the gene and its controls have functioned correctly in test-tube experiments as well as in a bacterium.

It was impossible to conduct such a test of the first man-made gene, a yeast gene completed by Dr. Khorana and his co-workers—then at the University of Wisconsin—in 1970. Not enough was known about the controls of the biochemistry of that

gene, Dr. Khorana said.

But the bacterial tyrosine transfer RNA gene is much better understood. Moreover, it contains information that corrects a harmful mutation that can occur in natural genes. Genes afflicted with that mutation create nonfunctional, incomplete proteins. The synthetic gene enables such mutants to produce functional proteins.

The scientists announced their results at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, in papers presented by senior research associate Dr. Ramamoorthy Balagaje and researcher Dr. Hans-Joachim Fritz, Monday morning, August 30.

Their co-workers include Dr. Eugene L. Brown, Professor Robert G. Lees, Dr. Takao Sekiya, Dr.

Tatsuo Takeya, Dr. Michael J. Ryan and Dr. Hans Kupper, of MIT; and Dr. Michael J. Gait from England, Dr. Kjeld E. Norris from Denmark, and Dr. Roland Contreras from Belgium.

The work was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the American Cancer Society and the
(Continued on page 5)

MIT Welcomes '80

A freshman class of 1,065 students from 48 states and 34 foreign countries arrived on campus for the start of Residence/Orientation week on Friday, September 3.

According to Peter H. Richardson, director of admissions at MIT, the entering Class of 1980, selected from more than 5,000 applicants, includes 170 women, 61 blacks, 17 Mexican Americans, seven Puerto Ricans, and 61 foreign students.

"The entering black student population is as large as it has ever been in a freshman class," Mr. Richardson said. "We've had some success this year, but the problem of increasing the number of minority students at MIT is far from solved," he said.

Every state but Alaska and Wyoming is represented in the freshman class. Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and California are the most popular home states with at least 50 students each. Eleven students come from Canada, six from Malaysia, five from Greece, and 39 other foreign students from 31 different countries.

Also new to MIT this September are 147 transfer students—who have completed one or two years of college elsewhere. They will begin their sophomore or junior years at MIT.

Members of the Class of 1980 graduated from 695 public high schools, 74 private schools, and 73 church-related schools. Schools sending the largest delegations are four public high schools—the Bronx High School of Science, New York City, with nine students, Boston Latin, Boston, with eight; Stuyvesant High School, New York City, with seven, and Walt Whitman High School outside Washington D.C., with five. The students range in age from 15 to 21, and 29 of them enter MIT after completing four years of high school in three years.

The freshmen were officially introduced to MIT Residence/Orienta-

tion Week Friday afternoon, September 3, with a picnic in MIT's Killian Court. Academic counselling and social activities continue through Sunday, September 12, closing with the President's Reception for parents and freshmen, from 3:30-5:30pm at the President's House on Memorial Drive.

The freshmen will join about 3,400 other MIT undergraduates for registration on Monday, September 13. Classes begin Tuesday, September 14.

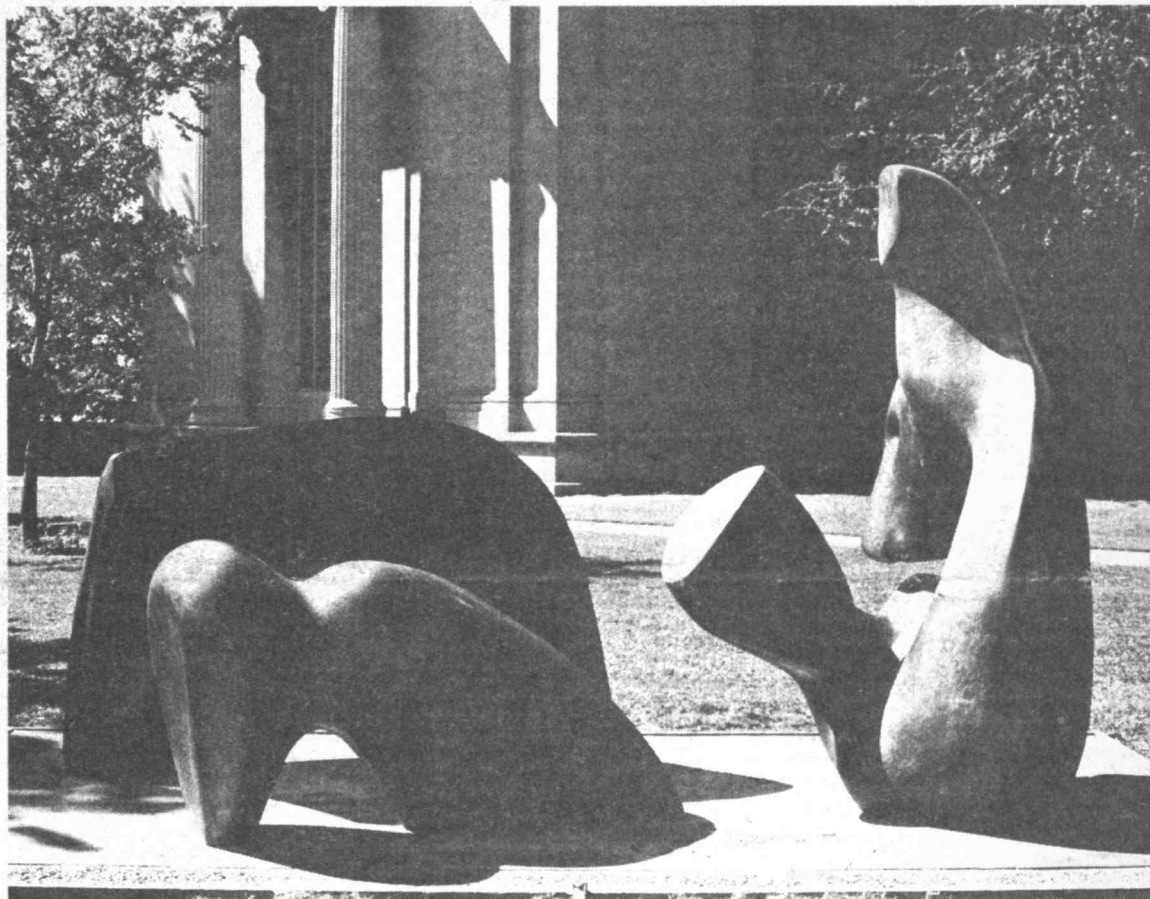
The size of the freshman class turned out to be somewhat smaller than anticipated. Academic Council earlier this year authorized admission of a class of up to 1,100. Of those offered admission, the number (the "yield") who indicated last spring that they would register turned out to be just about the target 1,100. Then, the number of acceptees who changed their minds over the summer and decided not to come (the "summer melt") turned out to be larger than in previous years. The result is a final class of 1,065. Admissions officers are conducting a study to determine why the "yield" and the "summer melt" were different from previous years, but thus far have found no generally applicable explanation.

Tech Talk Resumes Weekly Schedule

Effective with this issue, *Tech Talk* resumes regular weekly publication until Christmas vacation.

Tech Talk is distributed to offices and laboratories through Institute mail, and bulk allotments are delivered to the desks in residence halls. Additional copies are available in the Information Center (Rm 7-111) and the News Office (Rm 5-111).

Moore Sculpture Installed



Henry Moore's *Three Piece Reclining Figure, Draped* in Killian Court.

By KATHARINE S. C. JONES
Staff Writer

An important sculpture by the internationally celebrated British sculptor Henry Moore was installed in the du Pont Court side of MIT's Killian Court on Friday, August 27.

The 16-foot-long bronze sculpture, *Three Piece Reclining Figure, Draped*, is the first of Moore's monumental works to come to the New England area.

The sculpture is a gift to the Institute from several generous donors. A dedication ceremony is planned for the fall.

No more than six casts of any of Moore's works can ever be made. So

far three casts of the reclining figure have been made and two have been sited, one in Moore's own sculpture garden in Hertfordshire, England, and a second at MIT. Moore's estate, with many of his monumental sculptures in place, will be bequeathed to the Tate Gallery in London.

The possibility of placing a sculpture in Killian Court was a major factor in Moore's enthusiastic endorsement of one of his masterpieces for MIT. The tranquil setting in an

"urbanscape" impressed Moore when he visited MIT in May, 1974. To him Killian Court is a handsome environment for his work.

Moore believes, "Sculpture is an art of the open air. Daylight, sunlight is necessary to it, and for me its best setting and complement is nature." Moore feels strongly that his sculpture should be placed in a landscape "rather than in the most beautiful building I know."

Efforts to obtain a monumental

Microprobe Scans Legionnaires' Hair

By ROBERT M. BYERS
Staff Writer

A scanning proton microprobe under development by a team of scientists from MIT, Harvard and MIT's Lincoln Laboratory as a potential future tool in the analysis of biological tissues is being used to scan single hair strands taken from survivors of the mysterious Legionnaires' disease.

Investigators want to know if there are present in the hair strands excessive amounts of any specific elements. Such information could be a clue to the cause of the mystery disease.

The Harvard-MIT team includes Dr. Lee Grodzins, MIT professor of physics; Dr. Paul Horowitz, professor of physics at Harvard University; Dr. Jean Ryan, who directs the 4-million volt Van de Graaff accele-

rator facility at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Mass.; and several present and former students at MIT and Harvard.

Legionnaires' disease is the name given by officials of the Pennsylvania state health department to an influenza-like illness that broke out among persons who attended an American Legion convention in Philadelphia in late July. The same illness broke out also among a smaller number of persons who attended a Eucharistic congress in Philadelphia a few days later. Both meetings used the same Philadelphia hotel for headquarters. All told, there have been 177 reported cases and, of these, 28 persons have died.

No infectious agent has been identified as the cause. Some investigators have suggested that a toxic substance might have been inadver-

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Robot Joins Frosh Luggage Parade

Along with the backpacks, trunks, musical instruments, and assorted luggage that arrived at MIT with the freshman Class of 1980 came Christopher, a 50-pound robot.

Christopher is the invention of Jay Dunnington, a freshman from Ridgefield, Connecticut, who aspires to be an inventor.

Mr. Dunnington began building Christopher in late 1974 during his senior year at Loomis-Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn. Building the robot is a learning project for him.

"I've never had a master plan. I just apply what I've learned and see if it works. The more I learn, the more I modify Christopher," he said. "Now that I'm at MIT I hope to learn why it works the way it does."

When he began the robot, Mr. Dunnington was beginning to learn about

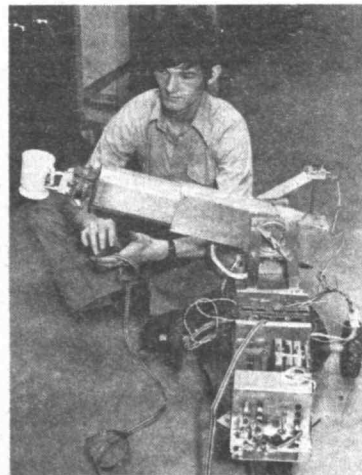
electricity.

"At first everything was coils, then everything was relays, then transistors. A year ago I found integrated circuits easier to work with," he said.

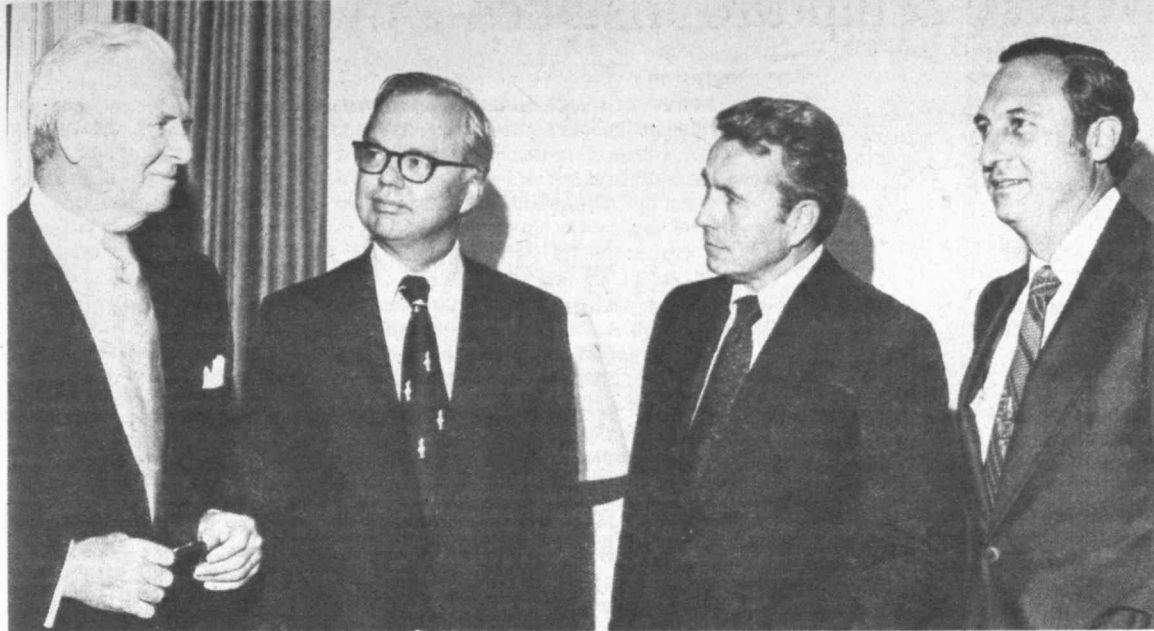
Most recently Mr. Dunnington has learned about computer technology and has applied what he's learned to Christopher. He first realized the potential of computers last December while at MIT for an interview in the Admissions Office. A professor in the Laboratory for Computer Science talked with Mr. Dunnington who then realized how much a computer would improve his robot.

Knowing nothing about computers, Mr. Dunnington bought some manuals. He soon discovered it would be too difficult to build a computer from scratch, so in early July he bought an

(Continued on page 8)



CHRISTOPHER THE ROBOT serves a morning mug of coffee to inventor Jay Dunnington, a freshman from Ridgefield, Conn.



NEWEST ILO MEMBER—The most recent company to join MIT's Industrial Liaison Program is the Chrysler Corporation, and shown above on a visit to MIT to make the enrollment official are (left to right): Thomas F. Morrow, who until his recent retirement, was Chrysler group vice president-international; Howard W. Johnson, chairman of the MIT Corporation; Richard A. Vining, Chrysler group vice president-engineering, product development and purchasing, and Sidney

D. Jeffe, Chrysler vice president for engineering. Mr. Morrow is a 1935 graduate of MIT and a member of the Corporation Development Committee. Chrysler's enrollment brings to 135 the number of companies that are members of the Industrial Liaison Program. The Program is one mechanism through which MIT is able to strengthen its relationships with industry and through which industry is able to provide support for MIT's programs in education and research.

Psychologists Resolve Question on Vision

MIT psychologists studying the development of vision have resolved one aspect of the debate on the relative influence of environment and heredity.

They have found that people see horizontal and vertical edges better than diagonals because they are born that way—not because they are “brainwashed” by seeing so many perpendicular buildings and square objects.

The argument that the trait is acquired had gained support several years ago when it was found that Canadian Indians living in tepee villages see diagonals better than the average city-dweller.

But the MIT researchers found a preference for vertical and horizontal lines in infants as young as two weeks old—too short a time to acquire the trait, especially while lying on one's back in a crib.

Other scientists have found that Chinese see diagonals better than Caucasians. Since Canadian Indians and Chinese are both of Mongolian descent, this suggests that the Indians' vision is determined by their genes, not by the sloping walls of their tents. Studies by other researchers support this interpretation.

The research was carried out by Dr. Richard M. Held, professor of experimental psychology; graduate student Susan C. Leehey; staff researcher Sarah L. Brill; postdoctoral fellow Jane Gwiazda; research associate, Joseph A. Bauer, Jr., and former postdoctoral fellow Anne Maskowitz-Cook. Pat Worthen is secretary to the group.

The research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Spencer Foundation.

The technique the researchers used was based on the premise that a baby would rather look at a pattern he or she can see, than at one that is fuzzy or undistinguished.

The baby was held by his mother or father in a darkened room, in front of a wooden partition with two circular screens. One screen showed vertical or horizontal stripes; the other showed diagonal stripes. (Which screen showed which pattern changed during the session.)

An observer watching through a peep-hole—but unable to see the screens—decided whether the infant looked for longer periods or more frequently at one screen than the other.

In one study of 24 infants from six to 50 weeks old, the researchers found that the infants preferred vertical and horizontal stripes except when the stripes were so wide that the child could see both patterns clearly, or when the stripes were so thin that the child could see neither pattern. The results have now been confirmed with infants as young as two weeks.

The researchers are now using the same techniques to study a defect of vision similar to the inherited preference for horizontal and vertical axes: astigmatism, or blurred vision along one axis.

They hope to determine whether it is possible to prevent some damage to vision by giving corrective glasses

to children in early childhood.

Studies with kittens, both at MIT and elsewhere, indicate that visual neurons responsive to certain stimuli may atrophy, or fail to develop, if the stimuli are absent.

For example, when kittens were raised with goggles showing them only vertical lines, and then the goggles were removed, their visual neurons were at first considerably less reactive when a horizontal object came into view.

This suggests, Dr. Held said, that visual neurons might be desensitized not only by the absence of certain stimuli, but also by prolonged inability to see stimuli because of defects in the eye. In fact, he said, many adults with astigmatism do show “markedly lower acuity” even when the defect is corrected optically.

The implication is that the neural damage has occurred—perhaps because the astigmatism was not optically corrected soon enough.

To test that theory, Dr. Held and his colleagues are studying astigmatic infants. First, an optometrist diagnoses astigmatism by studying light refraction in the eyes; then the vision of the child is tested with and without corrective glasses. So far they have studied children up to one year old.

The results suggest that with optical correction, an infant astigmat doesn't seem to show neural loss,” Dr. Held said. “This appears to mean that when loss of vision is detected even with optical correction, it will be found only after the first year. But this is so far a tentative conclusion.”

The researchers are now continuing their studies of astigmatic children. Children less than a year old are tested in the same way as the infants tested for diagonal vision. But children more than a year old don't respond to that method.

Apparently the older babies no longer find a simple pattern of stripes so enthralling that they will sit still and stare at them.

For the older babies, another method is used. Electrodes placed on the child's skull measure electrical response of the brain to visual stimuli of different orientations—vertical, horizontal and oblique—as the child watches a circular screen with a slowly rotating striped pattern.

To keep the child's interest, a color cartoon is superimposed on the pattern. The researchers have found that giving the very young children a bottle also keeps them calm enough to work with.

Wulff Book Issued

An Introduction to Materials Science and Engineering, written by Dr. John Wulff, professor of metallurgy, emeritus, in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT, has been published by John Wiley & Sons.

Co-authors of the college text with Dr. Wulff are Dr. Kenneth M. Ralls of the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Thomas H. Courtney of the Michigan Technological University.

Synthetic Fuels Subsidy Unwise, Researchers Say

Synthetic fuels and alternative sources such as solar and nuclear energy will not be realistic substitutes unless petroleum and natural gas become so inaccessible that the cost of recovering them equals or exceeds the cost of developing the

alternatives, according to two chemical engineers at MIT's Energy Laboratory.

There is no shortage of energy, Dr. Ogden H. Hammond and Robert E. Baron state in the July-August issue of *American Scientist*, “but it is clear that there is a drastic shortage of energy at the prices to which we have become accustomed.”

These conclusions have been developed in an article which focuses primarily on the historical development of synthetic fuels and the raw materials used in their production. The article traces the history of fuels and synthetics from the ancient Chinese to the present day and also examines and explains various synthetic fuels technologies, including hydrogenation, coal gasification, coal liquefaction and the use of oil shale and tar sands. Several diagrams illustrate many of the synthetic fuels processes.

The House of Representatives is currently considering a bill, already passed by the Senate, which would provide approximately \$2 billion in loan guarantees and other subsidies to a variety of expensive energy supply technologies, particularly coal gasification and shale oil.

“A massive development of a synthetic fuels industry by means of some sort of subsidy appears unwise,” Hammond and Baron write. “If synthetic fuels are subsidized, there will be less incentive to use capital and labor to reduce consumption...”

Hammond and Baron indicate that the extremely high cost of present synthetic fuel technologies makes them a questionable investment, particularly with current fuel prices. “The part synthetic fuels will play

in the future cannot yet be determined,” they state. “It appears certain that there will again be a U.S. synthetic fuels industry of some sort, but how large that industry ought to be and how soon it should develop is unclear.”

Whatever course of action is followed, Hammond and Baron predict that “the costs to the nation will be high” and the U.S. standard of living may be significantly affected.

Exam Reminder

Members of the faculty are reminded by Winston E. Flynn, assistant registrar, to fill out the questionnaire they received through interdepartmental mail recently concerning the scheduling of first term final examinations. Information is being solicited from the faculty earlier than usual this year, in an attempt to investigate alternatives to the presently scheduled examination dates.

Biologists to Hear Kennedy

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) will be opening speaker in a program, “The Biological Revolution: Cell Biology and Public Welfare,” at 7:30pm today, Wednesday, Sept. 8, in Kresge Auditorium.

The evening program on science and public policy, which will include a panel of leading biomedical scientists, is a session of the First International Congress on Cell Biology being held Sept. 5-10 in Boston. Information on tickets for the program may be obtained by calling 734-3300, ext. 619.

Dr. Eugene Bell, MIT professor of biology, is a member of the local committee for the conference. Other

MIT participants in the conference include Dr. Mary Lou Pardue, associate professor of biology; Dr. Uttam Lal Rajbhandary, professor of biochemistry; Dr. Sheldon Penman, professor of cell biology; Dr. John M. Buchanan, John and Dorothy Wilson Professor of Biochemistry; Dr. Thomas R. Cech, postdoctoral fellow; Dr. Raymond E. Lockard, postdoctoral fellow, and James J. Bonner, a graduate student, all from the MIT Department of Biology; and Dr. Nicholas Catsimopoulos, associate professor of food biochemistry, and Dr. Ann L. Griffith, research associate, both of the MIT Department of Nutrition and Food Science.

Environmental Studies Brochure

The office of the Provost has published its sixth annual “Environmental Studies at MIT” brochure which contains a collection of information focusing primarily on environmental education and research activities at MIT.

An increasing number of academic departments and research laboratories are offering environmental programs for MIT students. These include the graduate professional degree, Environmental Engineer, in the School of Engineering, and undergraduate concentrations in environmental design offered by the Department of Urban Studies and

Planning and in transportation offered jointly by the Departments of Urban Studies and Planning and Civil Engineering.

The brochure lists the names of the ed by the various departments as well as others at the Institute who would be sources of information for environmental studies. In addition, the brochure contains a partial list of the various subjects offered at MIT that relate to the environment. Copies of the brochure are available in the office of the Special Assistant to the Provost, Louis Menand III, Room 4-246 or in the Information Center, Room 7-111.

Urban Studies Graduates Find Variety of Careers

Urban studies majors in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning are highly employable and have gone on to a wide variety of careers since their graduation from MIT, a survey has shown. The career fields most heavily represented are urban planning, law, management and medicine.

The survey was undertaken to learn about the employment and education experiences of the 83 students graduating from the time the departmental major was established in 1970-71 through 1975.

Dr. Langley C. Keyes, professor of city and regional planning and the head of the department, said the research results will be used to guide curriculum improvements and to broaden the base of information available to MIT students consider-

ing majoring in urban studies.

The survey was conducted by Dr. Robert Hollister, assistant professor of urban studies and the department's undergraduate officer, assisted by Ruth Kolodney, administrative assistant.

These were the major findings: —Most of the department's majors have done graduate work either immediately after getting their SB or after working for a period. Eighty percent of the respondents have an advanced degree or are enrolled in an advanced degree program.

—The most striking fact with respect to graduates' schooling beyond the SB is the variety of fields in which they have sought advanced training (although in recent years increasing proportions have gone on in urban planning). Among those who

have received or are presently working toward advanced degrees are 14 in urban and regional planning and urban affairs (this figure would almost double if it included students presently enrolled in the department's five year SB/MCP program); 10 in law, five in management and business, five in medicine, three in education and two in architecture and urban design. Other fields are sociology, computer science, engineering, systems dynamics, religion, philosophy and public affairs.

—Graduates with and without advanced degrees have landed responsible and interesting jobs in both the public and private sectors. A few examples: law assistant, House of Representatives, Washington; senior environmental engineer, Waldon

Research, Cambridge; transportation planner, Barton-Aschman Associates, Washington; deputy director, Massachusetts Energy Policy Office; planner, Candeub, Fleissig and Associates, Newark, N.J.

—Graduates have secured decent salaries in their first full-time employment. The Urban Studies program is too new to have much data on salary increases over time, but the experiences of graduates in 1971 and 1972 indicate healthy advancement in both responsibility and salary levels.

The average starting salary for 1971-75 graduates with an SB (making no correction for inflation) is \$10,250; the average for graduates with an advanced degree is \$13,600. The high and low first full-time sal-

aries for those without an advanced degree were \$16,500 and \$5,500; for those with an advanced degree, \$21,700 and \$9,600.

The average present salaries for the classes of 1971, 1972 and 1973 are, respectively, \$15,400, \$13,000 and \$16,300. The high salaries for the same three classes are \$19,000, \$24,000 and \$21,700 and the lows \$10,700, \$5,500 and \$13,000.

—While a number of graduates have experienced brief periods of unemployment, their rate of unemployment is relatively low compared with recipients of bachelor's degrees in other fields, including the sciences and liberal arts.

THE INSTITUTE CALENDAR

September 8
through
September 19

Events of Special Interest

International Open House for Newcomers from Abroad — "Here's Boston" slide show by Gregory Smith, UROP staff, member of MIT Corporation. Wed, Sept 8, 7-8pm, Rm 10-105. **Open House** continues through Thurs, 9:30am-5pm, Rm 10-105.

Graduate Orientation '76 — Sponsored by Graduate Student Council. **Thurs, Sept 9:** Welcoming in Kresge Auditorium, followed by coffee & donuts (Kresge Lobby) and videotaped workshops on key offices (Kresge Little Theatre & Sala), 9:30am. Graduate Activities Midway, including taking of graduate only ID pictures (avoid Registration Day lines), 10:30am. Picnic in Killian Court with departmental representatives. Tickets \$1.50, in Rm 3-136 or GSC Office, Rm 50-110. Followed by Departmental Open Houses, 2-4pm. **Fri, Sept 10:** Videotaped workshops shown all day (11am-6pm) in Muddy Charles Pub (Rm 50-110). Faculty Club Gala Dance 8pm-1am, 6th fl Bldg E52. Music by Disco Sounds, cocktails served (2 at 50¢/ea). Information Center all week, Rm 3-136, Graduate School Office.

Seminars and Lectures

Wednesday, September 8

Nonlinear Estimation Theory and Phase-Lock Loops* — John Eterno, G. Aero/Astro Thesis Presentation. 2pm, Rm 37-252.

Thursday, September 9

Mapping Gag and Pol Regions on the RSV Genome — Dr. Peter Duesberg, molecular biology & Virus Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley. Nutrition & and Food Science Seminar. 4:30pm, M&D 404, Tufts University. Tea 4pm, M&D 406, Tufts.

Friday, September 10

Active Control of High Speed Rail Vehicles** — Prasun K. Sinha, G. Aero/Astro Thesis Presentation. 2pm, Rm 33-206.

The Spectrum of Resonance Fluorescence Induced by a Monochromatic Field** — Frederick Y. Wu, G. Aero/Astro Thesis Presentation. 4:30pm, Rm 33-206.

Monday, September 13

Science Library Open House — New graduate students and staff members especially welcome. 2:30-4:30pm, Rm 14S-100. Refreshments.

Tuesday, September 14

Two-Photon Spectrum of Benzene* — John R. Lombardi, chemistry, CUNY. Seminar in Physical Chemistry. 4pm, Rm 4-370. Coffee 3:45pm, Rm 6-321.

The End of Objectivity: An Introduction to Existential Philosophy, Part I: The Heritage of Rationalism* — Gian-Carlo Rota, applied mathematics and philosophy. Concourse Lecture. 7pm, Rm 2-390.

Wednesday, September 15

Lecture on Transcendental Meditation** — Sponsored by Student International Meditation Society (SIMS). 3 & 7:30pm, Rm 4-145. Info: Terry King, x3-6821.

Community Meetings

MIT Women's Forum** — Meetings Mon, 12n, Rm 10-105. **Mon, Sept 13:** Social meeting with punch, cheese & crackers. All MIT women invited, especially students. Nominations for 3 Forum representatives to Women's Advisory Group (elections following week).

Student Art Association Classes** — Fall program offers a variety of 10 week classes, ranging from drawing to photography to jewelry making (complete list available Stu Ctr Rm 429.) Open to entire community, preference given to students. Classes begin Mon, Sept 20. Registration: Mon, Sept 13-Fri, Sept 17, (also 5-8pm on Wed), Stu Ctr Rm 429. Payment due at registration.

Technology Wives Organization Welcoming Party* — Everyone invited to TWO's welcoming party, especially newcomers and their families. Sun, Sept 12, 2pm, patio in front of Kresge. Fresh watermelon, apples, homemade bread. We'll be happy to answer your questions about MIT & Boston area.

Registration Day Ice Cream Party** — Sponsored by Association for Women Students (AWS). Mon, Sept 13, 2-4pm, Stu Ctr Mezzanine Lge.

MIT Women's League Mushroom Walks*** — Margaret H. Lewis will conduct walks Tues, Sept 14, Wed, Sept 22, Wed, Sept 29 & Tues, Oct 5, 10am-12n, at different sites. Will learn to collect and identify a few mushrooms with confidence. Limited to 50. Mary Pinson, x3-3656 or Terry Palty, 334-4810.

Association for Women Students** — Steering Committee meeting Tues, Sept 14, 4pm, Rm 3-310. Please come share our suggestions for future meetings & projects, new ideas. New members always welcome, men and women invited.

Technology Nursery School — Now accepting applications for new school year from MIT children, ages 2 years, 9 mos. to 4 years, 9 mos. There are 2-day, 3-day and 5-day programs. Eastgate: 9am-1pm weekdays (bring lunch); Westgate: 9am-12n weekdays (no lunch). Info: x3-5907.

Social Events

Hillel Social Events* — Wed, Sept 8: Cocktail party (free) 9pm, Senior House. Note change in day. **Sat, Sept 11:** Coffee house with felafel & live entertainment, 9:30pm, bsmt of 312 Memorial Dr. **Sun, Sept 12:** Lox & bagel brunch for students & parents, 11am, Rm 10-105. Speaker.

Faculty Club Special Dinners*** — Thurs, Sept 9: Lobster Nite. Baked or Broiled, salad bar, dessert cart, \$7.95 + tax. **Thurs, Sept 16:** Rib Nite. Complete dinner \$6.50 +tax. RSVP for all, x3-4896.

Movies

Sleeper** — LSC. Fri, Sept 10, 7 & 9:30pm, Kresge. Admission 75¢, MIT or Wellesley ID required. Free for freshmen!

Dr. Strangelove** — LSC. Sat, Sept 11, 7 & 9:30pm, Rm 26-100. Admission 75¢, MIT or Wellesley ID required.

LSC Registration Day Movie** — To be announced. Kresge.

Wind from the East* — MIT Film Society. Fri, Sept 17, 7:30 & 9:30pm, Rm 6-120. Admission \$1.

Music

Festival Jazz Band & Concert Jazz Band** — Auditions Sun, Sept 12, Kresge. Jazz Band 10am, Festival Jazz Band 6pm.

Choral Society** — Auditions Mon, Sept 13, 7:30pm, Rm 10-250.

MIT Brass Ensemble** — Sight reading rehearsals Tues, Sept 14 & Tues, Sept 21, 5:30pm, Kresge.

MIT Symphony Orchestra Auditions — Auditions begin Tues, Sept 14, 7:30pm, Kresge (open rehearsal). There are vacancies in almost every section and all members of MIT community are welcome to audition. Stop at Activities Midway or call Jim Heeger, x5-9454 Dorm, with questions.

MIT Chamber Music society** — Auditions Wed, Sept 15, 8pm, Kresge Rehearsal Rm B.

Dance

MIT Folk Dance Club — International: Sun, 7:30-11pm, Sala. **Balkan:** Tues, 7:30-11pm, Stu Ctr Rm 491. **Informal:** Fri, 12n-2pm, Kresge Oval (in good weather). **Israeli:** Thurs, 7:30-11pm, Sala.

Exhibitions

Photographs 1970-1976* — Exhibition of photographs by Jonathan Green. Thurs, Sept 2-Wed, Sept 29, Hayden Corridor Gallery. Sponsored by MIT Committee on the Visual Arts.

MIT Faculty Club Exhibit* — Susan E. Schur paintings on exhibit during Sept.

Chris Sproat: Made in Hayden* — Exhibitions of works constructed in Hayden Gallery space. Sponsored by MIT Committee on Visual Arts. Fri, Sept 3-Sat, Oct 2, Hayden Gallery. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm. Reception: Fri, Sept 10, 8-10pm.

Strobe Alley* — High speed photographs by Harold E. Edgerton, Institute Professor and Professor of Electrical Measurement, Emeritus. Bldg 4, 4th fl.

Music of the Celestial Diets* — Music Library exhibit of manuscript facsimiles & pictures. Daily, Bldg 14E.

Hart Nautical Museum* — Permanent exhibit of rigged merchant and naval ship models of yachts and engine models. Bicentennial exhibit: "1776-1976" — a frigate, 2 schooners, a gondola, and the Durham boat of the American Revolution. Open daily in Bldg 5, 1st floor.

MIT Historical Collections* — Permanent exhibition Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, Bldg N52, 2nd floor. **Bicentennial Exhibits:** Karl Taylor Compton; and Norbert Wiener, 1876 exhibit, Bldg 4 corridor. **The New Technology Exhibit and Energy Exhibit:** 2nd floor balcony.

Freshmen are encouraged to attend departmental lectures and seminars. Even when these are highly technical they provide students one means to learn more about professional work in a department and field.

*Open to the public
**Open to the MIT community only
***Open to members only
Send notices for July 28 through Aug 15 to the Calendar Editor, Room 5-111, ext. 3-3279, before noon Friday, July 23.

MIT's Viking 2 Experimenters Pleased With Initial Data

By WILLIAM T. STRUBLE
Staff Writer

Viking 2 lander is sending back first data from the Utopia Plains on Mars and one group of MIT scientists involved in the mission to the Red Planet is more than usually pleased with the results to date.

Dr. M. Nafi Toksoz, MIT professor of geophysics and a member of the Viking seismology investigation team, reported Tuesday (Sept. 7) from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California that the Viking 2 seismometer was operating and producing data.

"Tomorrow we will get into the full-scale monitoring mode," Dr. Toksoz said. In three days' of data gathered to date "we have not seen any large Mars quakes, but we had not expected to," he said.

That the Viking 2 seismometer is working to some extent assuages the keen disappointment felt by the seismology team when an identical instrument on Viking 1 was left inoperable because its protective mechanisms failed to release. The mechanisms were designed to cage and protect the instrument's sensing elements during launch and landing shocks.

With Dr. Toksoz at JPL were Dr. Anton Dainty, research associate in the MIT Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Kenneth R. Anderson, a graduate student. Dr. Toksoz is a member of the faculty of the department and director of MIT's George R. Wallace Geophysical Laboratory.

In the molecular analysis experiment, Dr. Klaus Biemann, MIT professor of chemistry and leader of the team, also reported on Tuesday from JPL that the gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer (GCMS) had been checked out for mechanical

problems and the first sample oven had been moved into loading position.

The team will run a few atmospheric analyses in the next two or three days, repeating the measurements made on Lander 1, Dr. Biemann said.

"Now we are in the midst of deciding where to pick the sample," he said. Dr. Biemann referred to the lander's telescopic arm, which is scheduled to reach out and scoop up soil samples—on Saturday—for the biology experiments, and on Sunday, for the GCMS. If the samples are successfully retrieved, a variety of soil tests will then begin, with emphasis on the search for organic compounds of either biological or non-biological origin. "We will try our best to find even small organic compounds this time," Dr. Biemann said.

ADP-VIII Announced

The Office of Personnel Development is now accepting applications for the next Administrative Development Program, ADP-VIII.

The program, which is open to all faculty, staff, and exempt employees of the Institute, provides professional development for those with administrative and management responsibilities at MIT. More than 200 people have participated in the program thus far.

Those interested in participating in ADP will be asked to attend a counseling panel session. In these sessions, former ADP participants will discuss course structure and content, share their own ADP experiences, and answer questions. Course descriptions and application forms for ADP VIII will be available at the counseling sessions, which will be scheduled through September

To do so, changes will be made in the sequence of the gas flow through the sample while it is heated up in the GCMS, he said. This time, the soil sample will not be flushed with ¹³C-labeled CO₂, which obscures the early part of the gas chromatogram, Dr. Biemann said. Hydrogen will be used instead, thus eliminating the obscuring effect, he said.

The soil tests will also repeat the analyses of the active biology investigation team, a member of which is Dr. Alexander Rich, Sedgwick Professor of Biology at MIT.

Black Graduate Student Directory Issued

A directory of black graduate students has been published for the first time at MIT as an aid for students who will be starting their studies in September.

21st. Applicants may call Ellen O'Hara on ext. 3-4276 to sign up for a counseling session.

Applications for the ADP VIII must be received in the Office of Personnel Development, E18-320, by September 28. A selection committee comprised of a sub-group of the Academic Council will choose participants according to criteria designed to achieve a heterogeneous group from Institute departments, laboratories, and centers.

The first class of the Organizational Psychology section will be held on Wednesday, October 13, from 1:30 to 5:00 in E18-320. This section will meet every Wednesday for 10 weeks. The schedule for the Financial Management section, to be held in Spring 1977, will be announced at a later date.

Three of the MIT Viking scientists are co-authors of two of 13 reports on Viking 1 that appeared in the Aug. 27, 1976, issue of *Science*, magazine, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Biemann is co-author of a report, "Composition of the Atmosphere at the Surface of Mars: Detection of Argon-36 and Preliminary Analysis." Co-authors of the report, "Viking Lander Location and Spin Axis of Mars: Determination from Radio Tracking Data," are Dr. Irwin I. Shapiro, professor of geophysics in

the MIT Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and a member of the Viking radio science team, and his associate, Dr. Robert Reasenberg, staff member in the department.

In addition, the Scientific and Technical Information Office of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has published an 80-page book, "Viking 1 Early Results," the first formal report of early scientific results from the mission.

"Because black graduate students are only about four percent of the total graduate student body at MIT; they often suffer from loneliness and feelings of isolation," John B. Turner, assistant dean of the Graduate School, said. "The directory may help reduce the problem."

In addition to listing the names and departments of continuing and new students, the directory also includes the names of black faculty members and key black staff members who may be of help to incoming students. Also included are brief descriptions of on-campus resources such as the Housing Office, the Medical Department and the Black Student Union Tutorial Program. A listing of selected off-campus facilities rang-

ing from barbershops to churches and the Museum of Afro American History completes the tabular section of the directory.

An introduction to the 25-page brochure includes brief statements by present black graduate students on how they view MIT from their personal experiences and a section on "Random Thoughts" by various other graduate students.

The booklet is part of an orientation program that includes a two day program for minority graduate students on September 10 and 11. New students will be given briefings by department heads and student support staff members, meet present graduate students, and be entertained at a social bazaar.

Women's Forum Lists Programs

The Women's Forum—a community-wide group representing women at MIT—will launch its fifth year with an Open House Monday, Sept. 13, in the Bush Room (10-105) from noon to 1pm, with punch and crackers and cheese.

Meetings of the Forum are held every Monday (except for holidays) and are open to all members of the community, including men. The

format is a bring-your-own-lunch lecture or discussion of topics of interest to women.

Programs for the upcoming weeks include an introduction to the various other MIT women's groups on Sept. 20, films of skits by the Lincoln Lab Women's Forum on Sept. 27, and the premiere of "Women's Work: Management," on Oct. 4 in the Little Theatre.

Scientists Complete Synthesis of Man-Made Gene

(Continued from page 1)

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Dr. Khorana said that the work differs from all other test-tube syntheses of genes in that the natural gene was not used as a template. The strategy he and his co-workers have developed "allows completely controlled manipulation of gene structure," he said.

"Starting with natural nucleic acids you can only replicate what exists in nature," he said. "With chemical synthesis we can alter specific parts of the gene, carrying out deliberate 'mutations' of all kinds to study their influence on the gene function."

Interactions with Protein

He is particularly interested in studying the interactions between the genetic material (DNA) and proteins. Only a small portion of genetic material serves as the blueprints for making RNA, which then makes proteins, he said. The majority of genetic material controls the function of genes, by interacting with proteins that act as enzymes.

The MIT scientists used the naturally occurring gene only to derive the sequence of the four building blocks (the nucleotides adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine) making up the gene and its control signals.

They constructed the gene in several steps, using the principles of subassembly.

First they developed chemical methods to hook together commercially synthesized nucleotides in the correct order, to make gene segments 10 to 15 nucleotides long. Each segment was a portion of one of the two complementary strands of DNA forming the gene.

Forty such segments were synthesized, an effort spanning nine years and involving the participation of 24 postdoctoral fellows.

After each segment was made, the scientists had to purify it. Dr. Khorana said the particularly dramatic progress has been made with a rapid, high-pressure liquid chromatography method developed by Dr. Fritz.

In the final phase, enzymes were used to link the 40 single-stranded segments into the entire double-stranded DNA, forming the structural gene and its control signals.

Dr. Khorana said that the scope of the chemical synthesis of genes is very different from the more rapid, controversial techniques known as "recombinant DNA," in which DNA from different organisms are joined together to study their expression.

He said that his work on the tyrosine transfer RNA gene does not present "any risk whatsoever," in relation to the recent debate on recombinant DNA.

"We are dealing with a completely defined system, containing a single transfer RNA gene which is already present in, and absolutely necessary to, all living cells," he said.

Background on the Gene

The gene is the basic unit of all heredity. It consists primarily of a long, double-stranded molecule of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). The two strands twist into a double helix, often described as resembling a spiral staircase.

The individual units of DNA are called nucleotides. The most commonly found nucleotides are adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine—abbreviated "A," "T," "G," and "C."

In the double-stranded DNA molecule, each adenine on one strand pairs with a thymine on the other strand, and each cytosine on one strand pairs with a guanine on the other strand. One nucleotide is, thus, complementary to the other—naturally bonded to it because of its mutually attractive chemical form.

This complementary pairing of nucleotides (and, thus, DNA strands) is extremely valuable for biologists building genes and determining their sequences.

When information from the genes is to be transmitted into functioning protein molecules in the cell, special enzymes begin transcribing information by building a complementary strand of ribonucleic acid (RNA) along one strand of the DNA.

Like DNA, RNA consists of a string of nucleotides, each of which pairs with a nucleotide on the DNA strand. When the enzymes have completed their synthesis of the

strand of RNA, the RNA strand breaks from the DNA and is used to synthesize protein molecules.

There are three types of RNA synthesized on DNA strands.

One type, called messenger RNA, represents the cell's method of translating information from the gene into proteins. These proteins will be the workers of the cells, chiefly as enzymes which aid the cell's chemical reactions.

Another kind of RNA is ribosomal RNA. This RNA folds up after leaving the gene, to form ribosomes. These ribosomes provide a "holder" which messenger RNA uses to translate its information into protein.

But some method is needed to grab amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, and carry them to the ribosomes, where they can be incorporated into proteins specified by messenger RNA. This is the function of the third kind of RNA—transfer RNA.

Professor Khorana and his colleagues have synthesized the gene that codes for a particular kind of transfer RNA—the kind that grabs the amino acid tyrosine, brings it to the ribosome, and allows it to be incorporated into a protein. Hence, the name of their gene is the "tyrosine transfer RNA gene."

Start and Stop Signals

Start and stop signals at either end of the gene direct the enzymes that assemble nucleotides along one strand of DNA, to form a strand of RNA. These signals consist of additional sequences of nucleotides.

The start signal for the tyrosine transfer RNA gene, as determined by the MIT scientists, consists of 59 nucleotides. Particularly interesting to the scientists are the regions of symmetry, in which a number of bases in one part of the strand are complementary to another group of bases, read backward, farther down the strand.

For instance, one region of the start signal has the sequence TCAT, while further down the strand, reading backwards, is the complementary sequence AGTA.

Professor Khorana and his colleagues theorize that this indicates that the start signal may fold in some three-dimensional manner to offer a recognizable shape to the transcription enzyme.

Similar, though less extensive elements of symmetry were found in the 23-unit stop signal.

History of the Gene Synthesis

Professor Khorana and his colleagues began work on the tyrosine transfer RNA gene nine years ago, while still at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1970 Professor Khorana announced synthesis of the first artificial gene, the gene for alanine transfer RNA from yeast. By construction of this gene, Professor Khorana proved that chemical and enzymatic techniques could be applied to such syntheses.

The 77-unit gene, however, could not be used for further studies, because its functioning in a living cell could not have been detected.

Also, the scientists did not know



Members of the MIT team that completed the synthesis of the first man-made gene get together with their leader, Nobel laureate Dr. Har Gobind Khorana, who directed the research. The group synthesized the bacterial tyrosine transfer RNA gene and implanted it in a living cell, where it proved to be fully functional. Here the group views photo slides that accompanied the presen-

tation of papers announcing the work on Aug. 30 at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco. In the group, left to right, are Dr. Robert G. Lees, Dr. Michael J. Ryan, Dr. Khorana (seated, holding papers), Dr. Ramamoorthy Belagaje, Dr. Hans-Joachim Fritz, and Dr. Eugene L. Brown.

the nature of the start and stop signals for the gene. These are vital for the cell machinery to recognize the gene and utilize its information in cell processes.

The *E. coli* gene for tyrosine transfer RNA was much easier to work with. Researchers in Cambridge, England, had determined the sequence of the gene, and had done extensive work with it, giving the MIT researchers a base on which to build.

Dr. Khorana and his colleagues also decided to synthesize the tyrosine transfer RNA gene because of a development which would enable them to detect the gene's functioning in a living cell.

In *E. coli* most of the genes are used for the synthesis of proteins. Occasionally a certain mutation in such a gene can result in a stop signal within a gene.

The result is a nonfunctional protein which is shorter than normal. This mutation, scientists have found, can be suppressed by a second mutation in another gene of *E. coli*. The English scientists discovered that this second mutation was within the gene for a tyrosine transfer RNA. For this reason the second gene, which was the one synthesized by Dr. Khorana, is often called "tyrosine suppressor transfer RNA gene."

This suppressor transfer RNA cancels out the stop signal and introduces the amino acid tyrosine instead. This results in a protein of normal length which in many cases is fully functional. Dr. Khorana and his colleagues can, thus, test the operation of their man-made gene by introducing it into the mutant bacterium, using a virus to carry it into

the bacterium. If the gene works, the *E. coli* proteins are normal.

The MIT team originally began synthesizing only an 85-unit tyrosine transfer RNA gene, which they believed coded for the entire product transfer RNA. In 1970, however, the Cambridge, England, scientists, Drs. Sidney Altman and John Smith, found that there was an additional 41-unit segment of the gene. This total 126-unit gene coded for what was called a "precursor" transfer RNA, which was longer than a functioning transfer RNA. For some unknown reason, after the long "precursor" transfer RNA chain is synthesized, the extra 41-unit protein is enzymatically split off, creating functioning transfer RNA. Dr. Khorana then began work on the longer 126-unit gene, with an additional aim of finding the function of the extra 41-unit portion.

Synthesizing Small Units

Professor Khorana and his colleagues build the gene and control

signals by synthesizing small ten-to-fifteen unit segments of the gene from individual nucleotides. Each segment consists of a complementary portion of two opposing segments of the two-stranded molecule. Thus, each segment acted as a "splint" to attract and hold together two opposing segments, which could then be tied together by an enzyme called DNA ligase. The scientists design each part of the synthesis so that the joined segments still have a leftover single-stranded segment extending beyond the double-stranded segment. This leftover segment can be used as a splint to attach more segments of the gene.

The MIT scientists point out that their synthesis is but a beginning step in the investigations of the gene. Their gene, plus control signals, is only about 200 units long, as compared with the typical human gene which measures in millions of units.

Har Gobind Khorana

Dr. Har Gobind Khorana, Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Biology and Chemistry at MIT, shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for his work on unraveling the genetic code. By synthesizing artificial DNA which contained reiterating sequences of nucleotides and studying how they functioned in a test-tube, he was able to find out how the coded information in genes specifies amino acid components of proteins.

Dr. Khorana extended his work to the synthesis of long nucleotide chains and in 1970 announced synthesis of the first artificial gene—for yeast alanine transfer RNA.

Professor Khorana was born in 1922 in Raipur, India. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the University of Punjab, India. In 1948 he took a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Liverpool in Great Britain.

He came to MIT in 1970 from the University of Wisconsin, where he was professor in the Enzyme Institute.

The author of more than 300 research papers, Dr. Khorana is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and an honorary member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Synthetic Tyrosine tRNA Gene

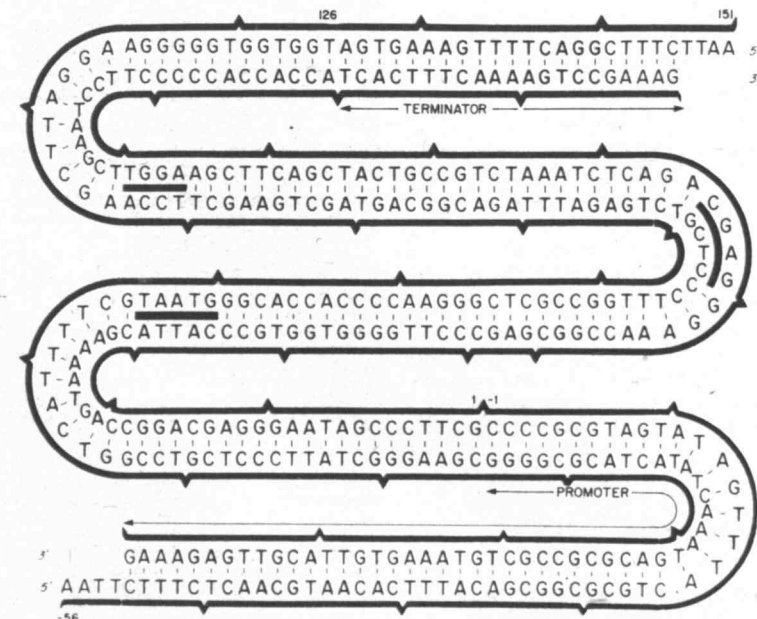


Diagram of complete double-stranded structure of synthetic *E. coli* tyrosine transfer RNA gene, including control elements (promoter and terminator), synthesized in the laboratory of Dr. Har Gobind Khorana at MIT. Segments between points were synthesized chemically, then joined enzymatically to form the entire DNA double helix. The numbers 3' and 5' (three prime and five prime) refer to the polarity of the individual DNA strands. Counting of monomer units starts at the origin of transcription.

Thomas P. McLennan Dies

Funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 4, for Thomas P. McLennan, coach of MIT's highly successful pistol teams for the past 10 years. Mr. McLennan, who would have been 52 on Labor day, died Wednesday, Sept. 1, following surgery at Choate Memorial Hospital, Woburn.

Mr. McLennan came to MIT in 1965 following more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force where he had been base range officer and officer in charge of marksmanship training at Hanscom Field. While in the Air Force he set a number of individual match records and coached several pistol teams to high finishes in competition with other Air Force units.

At MIT Mr. McLennan had taught marksmanship to several thousand

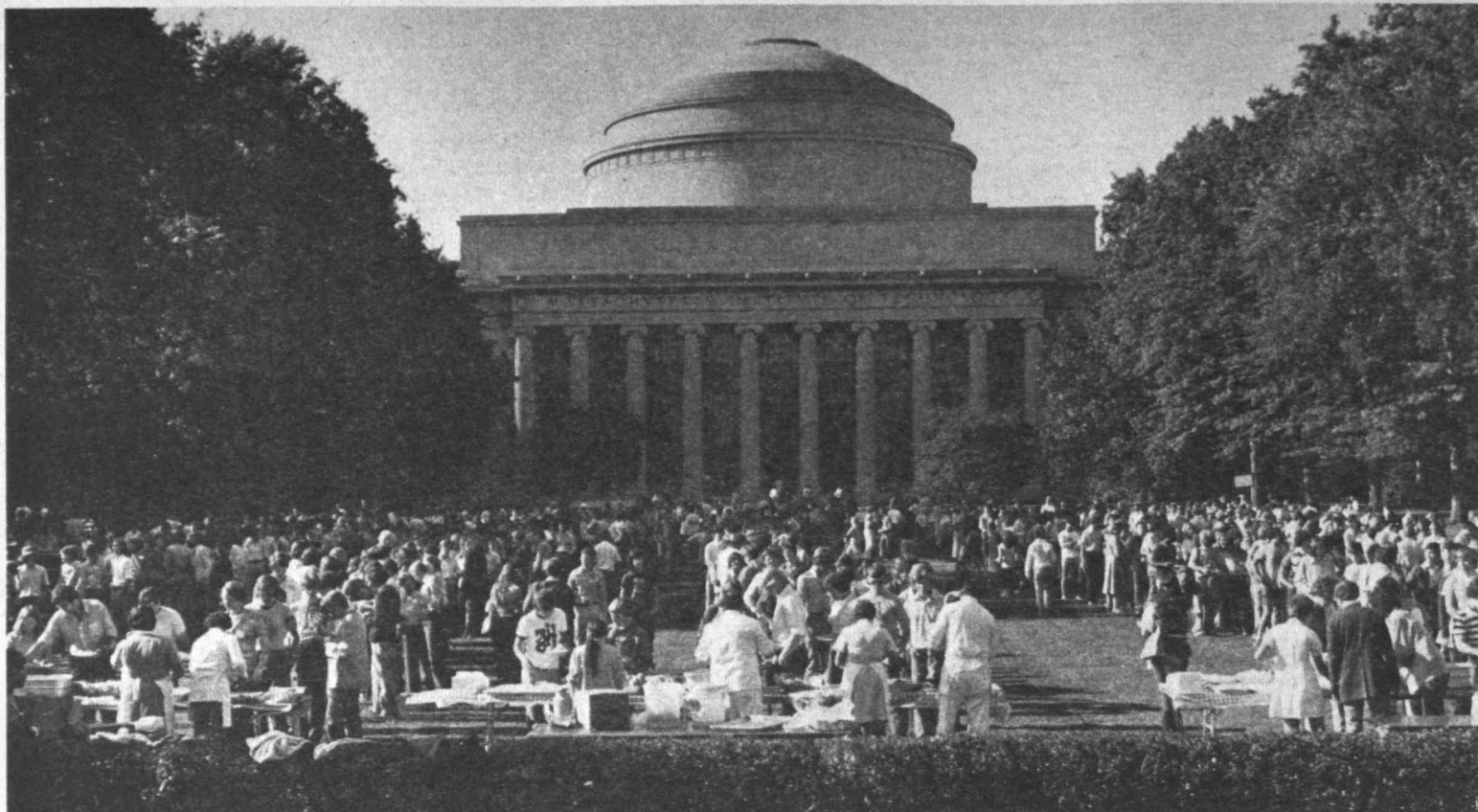
students and employees. The MIT pistol teams were drawn from the ranks of his marksmanship students since few of them, if any, had ever done target shooting before coming to MIT.

Under his coaching, the MIT pistol team was twice National Pistol Champion and always posted a winning season. More than half a dozen of his students won All American status.

In addition, Mr. McLennan taught firearms safety and rifle shooting to hundreds of children at the MIT Day Camp where he was known as "Uncle Tom."

Survivors include his widow, Frances, of Woburn; a son, Thomas P. McLennan, III, of Woburn; three daughters, Kathleen McLennan and Mrs. Nancy Neira of Woburn, and Mrs. Janice Saria of Burlington, and three grandchildren.





In their first official act, members of the Class of 1980 throng Killian Court for the traditional picnic which launches R/O Week. See story, page 1.

Cleaning Changes Set

Beginning Monday, September 13, Building Services will phase in a new cleaning program called Frequency Cleaning.

This program will affect all offices and laboratories throughout the campus and the change is expected to be completed by Monday, October 4.

Frequency Cleaning is simply every-other-day cleaning. It involves only the emptying of waste baskets, ashtrays, dusting, rug vacuuming, and the sweeping or mopping of floors. The washing and waxing schedule of floors is not involved in this change.

The every-other-day schedule will be rigidly followed, so office and lab occupants will have to be careful about disposing of perishables in their waste baskets because of possible odors upon spoiling.

If office or lab personnel have any questions concerning this program they should contact their Administrative Officers.

This Week In Sports

Jane Betts Appointed Assistant Athletic Director

Jane Betts, head coach of women's gymnastics and tennis and assistant professor at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., has been appointed assistant director of athletics at MIT.

Ms. Betts will also hold the titles of associate professor of physical education and director of women's intercollegiate athletics at MIT. Her appointment was announced by Professor Ross H. Smith, MIT director of athletics.

"This appointment represents a major step forward in the continued development of women's sports at MIT," Professor Smith said.

Selection of Professor Betts followed a nationwide search in which some 50 candidates were reviewed. Eight candidates were interviewed on the MIT campus by a search committee chaired by Professor James W. Mar of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and composed of faculty at large, from the Department of Athletics and students. The search committee unanimously recommended the appointment of Ms. Betts.

"Professor Betts is a top notch person who will do a good job in advancing the women's program within the overall framework of athletics at MIT," said Wendy C. Irving, '77, president of the MIT Athletic Association. "We are very fortunate to have her join the department."

Professor Betts said she looks forward to the continued development of the women's athletic program in parallel with the men's program, one of the most active in the National Collegiate Athletic Association with more than 20 intercollegiate teams and countless intramural and club sports.

At the present there are eight women's varsity sports: tennis, swimming, crew, sailing, basketball,



gymnastics, fencing and volleyball. Two other sports—softball and field hockey—are expected to gain varsity status within the near future.

A native of Indianapolis, Ind., Professor Betts is a graduate of Franklin College where she received the B.A. degree in 1962. She received the M.S. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1965 and has done additional graduate work at the University of New Hampshire, Indiana University and the University of Northern Colorado.

After teaching at Perry Township Junior High School in Indianapolis from 1962-64, Professor Betts was appointed assistant professor of physical education at Valparaiso in 1965. At Valparaiso she was instrumental in establishing women's tennis as a varsity sport. Her tennis and gymnastics teams both had winning seasons during 1975-76 and three gymnasts qualified for midwest regional competition.

At MIT Professor Betts will play a central role in all administrative affairs of the Department of Athletics and she will be a member of its policy and personnel committees. Her coaching assignment will be in gymnastics.

Professor Betts has been very active in athletic organizations in Indiana, particularly the Indiana Division of Girls' and Womens' Sports and the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. In 1970-71 she was one of the organizers of the Indiana Women's Intercollegiate Sports Organization which she has subsequently served in a variety of posts.

Professor Betts is also a member of the United States Gymnastics Federation, the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, the American Camping Association, and the National Intramural Sports Council.

Microprobe Scans Hair

(Continued from page 1)

tently and temporarily present in the hotel environment. Based on symptoms, some have suggested this might be nickel carbonyl poisoning, but tissue studies using autopsy materials have thus far been inconclusive.

The MIT-Harvard team is scanning hair samples from Pennsylvania for nickel content as well as for other elements. They point out it is not known if, in individuals exposed to nickel carbonyl, the nickel is, indeed, excreted, in part, by deposition in hair, as is the case with such substances as mercury and lead and arsenic. Moreover, if nickel is deposited in hair, it may not be present in sufficient quantities to be detectable by the scanning proton microprobe technique.

The group hopes to report back to the Pennsylvania state health department on the concentrations of some 15 or 20 different elements that are commonly present in human hair in the parts-per-million quantities that make them susceptible to proton microprobe detection. By scanning along each strand, the MIT-Harvard workers hope to be able to give an indication by time as to when the elements were deposited in the hair.

"We do not expect to be able to identify the specific cause of the disease," Dr. Grodzins said. "But we can hope to provide time history information that might serve as clues in the larger investigation."

Development of the scanning proton microprobe as a tool for tissue analysis has been underway for some two years, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The work is an example of developments in one technical area being modified and applied in another.

Lincoln is a center for advanced electronics research and development. Numerous pieces of electronic

communications equipment have been developed there over many years for use on satellites and space probes. The Van de Graaff particle accelerator—capable of producing both electron and proton beams—has long been used to test how the equipment will perform when bombarded by charged particles in space, particularly those associated with the Van Allen radiation belts.

Dr. Grodzins and Dr. Horowitz have for several years been interested in applying fundamental nuclear and atomic physics techniques to the development of improved methods for the assay of biological tissues to determine the spatial distribution of various elements, and, equally important, the time rate at which the elements became incorporated into such tissues as hair and fingernails.

Hair is a particularly useful specimen. In normal persons, hair grows at the rate of about one centimeter a month. Moreover, some elements taken up by the body tend to be excreted, in part, via deposition in new hair growth. Thus, variations in elements found along a single strand of hair could, in principle, be a time guide to when they were placed there by the body.

Dr. Horowitz and Dr. Grodzins developed the scanning proton microprobe for use with a Van de Graaff accelerator of the kind used at Lincoln. It employs a pinhole opening to collimate a very thin beam of protons so that a biological tissue such as a hair strand can be scanned when moved back and forth across it.

When the protons in the beam interact with the various elements present, each gives up a characteristic x-ray emission. The microprobe can be tuned to scan for up to six different elements simultaneously. The elements are identified by the x-ray

signatures they produce.

Officials of the Pennsylvania state health department sent to the Harvard-MIT workers both hair strand samples taken from survivors of Legionnaires' disease and hair strand samples taken from individuals in no way connected with the outbreak. The samples were coded so that the Harvard-MIT workers cannot distinguish between test materials and controls.

The Harvard-MIT group expects to report later this week to the Pennsylvania investigators the results of their scanning for each sample submitted.

As for the suspect element, nickel, Dr. Grodzins said it is possible that the scans will be negative for both test specimens and controls.

"This would not rule out nickel," Dr. Grodzins said. "It would simply mean the proton microprobe did not detect it—either because nickel isn't excreted in hair, or because it is excreted in amounts too small to be detected."

The group plans to continue the studies with hair and other tissue specimens taken from humans and experimental animals known to have had nickel poisoning of one kind or another. This could provide a guide to what patterns, if any, exist when excessive amounts of nickel are present in biological systems.

Moreover, hair is not the only biological tissue being studied with the proton microprobe. Others include kidney and eye tissues.

Several students are working on various aspects of the research as these projects. One, William A. Ladd of Ellensburg, Wash., completed a master of science thesis on the subject a year ago and presently is working at Boston's Children's Medical Center preparatory to entering medical school.

Mycology, Bridge Lessons Planned

Mushroom walks and bridge lessons lead the list of special courses offered by the MIT Women's League this fall.

Mrs. Margaret H. Lewis, lecturer, teacher, epicure and well-known authority on wild mushrooms will conduct four mushroom walks at different sites to teach class members how to collect and identify a few wild mushrooms with confidence. Walks will be held September 14, 22 and 29, and October 5 from 10am to noon. The class will be limited to 30.

Rodger E. Longley, a well-qualified club and duplicate bridge director, will give a course of 10 lessons for intermediates and beginners starting Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 7:30-9:30pm in the Emma Rogers Room(10-340). Lessons will cover standard American bidding, dummy play and defense play.

For further information on these classes, call Mary Pinson, x3-3656 or Terry Palty, 334-4810.

Robot Comes With Freshman

(Continued from page 1)

Intel 8080 for \$40.

"The Intel 8080 is a chip or integrated circuit. Alone, it is much like a brain that's not connected to a spinal cord. It's only able to drive a robot when connected to other components. I built a memory, display board, interface, and central processing unit," Mr. Dunnington said.

The micro-computer fits into a briefcase and commands Christopher to do various things. The robot moves about on three wheels—the front one from a motorized wheelchair and the back two from a tricycle. On top of the robot's body rests one arm, two feet long. The arm can stretch out another six inches, rotate, move up and down, and can grasp and raise a good-sized wastepaper basket. Christopher is strong enough to carry its master short distances.

The size of a collie, Christopher gets his energy from five motorcycle batteries. He is constructed mainly of surplus parts.

"All the motors, gears, linkages, and integrated circuit boards are surplus," Mr. Dunnington said. "They're not the best quality, but they are a lot cheaper."

Mr. Dunnington's inventive instincts have been fostered by Fred Himes, an independent inventor whose company is Voice-Act of Ridgefield. Mr. Himes was looking for an assistant to help him during the summer of 1974. Mr. Dunnington got the job. He returned to work with Mr. Himes after graduating from Loomis-Chaffee and has worked under his guidance for the past year.

Why did Christopher come to MIT? "I'm just getting the computer programs to work and am too close to a breakthrough to leave the robot at home," Mr. Dunnington said. "I hope some of my MIT classes will relate to the robot. If not, I'll work on Christopher in my spare time. If I decide to design a new system, I'll probably build a new robot. Christopher has been developed about as much as it can be."

PE Registration Set for Tuesday

Unlike previous years, registration for physical education classes will take place the day after registration for academic subjects.

Registration for physical education classes will take place Tuesday, September 14, from 8:45am until 12:30pm in du Pont Gym.

In past years many students have had to change their physical education selections to accommodate last minute changes in academic scheduling. It is hoped that this year fewer changes will be necessary if students are given an extra day to finalize their academic schedules before signing up for physical education courses.