

# JP Nightclub — All Our Events Should Be This Good

by Howard B. Bernard  
News and Features Editor

Saturday night was alright for dancing, to paraphrase Elton John, at the Junior Prom Nightclub.

Harrington Auditorium was pleasingly and originally decorated with balloons, ribbons and crepe streamers as the audience listened to the band, Down East, and the comedian, Lenny Clark, who was introduced as "the bad boy of Boston comedy". The audience also saw Franz Roesner and Jill Bussell crowned JP King and Queen.

In the first set, Down East played mainly "covers" — songs other bands have made famous — but their mix of music was almost perfectly suited to the kind of program I would call ideal for such an event. They mingled fast and slow songs, and the closest they came to (shudder) Michael "Shriller" Jackson was "Celebration", originally by Kool and the Gang. They played everything from the Doobie Brothers, the Eagles and Loverboy to Li-

nel Richie with skillful and entertaining musicianship. Some of their numbers, however, were so close to the originals that they sounded like the same track with a different vocal dubbed in. But that familiarity is what people seem to want at dance events.

The audience also enjoyed Down East's music, clapping enthusiastically after most of the songs. But the peak of their popularity came at the end of their second set, when they energized the audience with a medley of five or six Beatles songs and Elton John's hard-rocking "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting". All the dancers clapped and sang delightedly along to "I Wanna Hold Your Hand", "She Loves You", "Day Tripper", and "Twist and Shout" (the Beatles medley) and Elton John's "Saturday Night" and then cheered Down East on to an encore. The band played "Stars on 45" because, their lead singer said, "You (the

(continued on page 3)

# Good Vibes from WCHC

by Jeanne Benjamin  
Newspeak Staff

WCHC is the student-run radio station on the Holy Cross Campus, broadcasting from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from September to May at 89.1 FM.

The operation began in 1948 on the AM band, when the radio program was broadcast solely for the campus. In 1977 WCHC converted to FM, and expanded to reach an off-campus audience, too.

WCHC is a non-commercial, "public service" radio station which has a broadcast radius of 10 to 15 miles. Its entire staff of student volunteers numbers 150 (75 of these are disc jockeys) and there is a professor who acts as an advisor to this unique form of club activity. The WCHC organization is not treated differently from other Holy Cross clubs, except that it must answer to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission).

In an interview with *Newspeak*, Steve Schildwacher, a DJ at WCHC, described WCHC's musical format as "progressive, contemporary music". He attributes the station's growing audience to the diversity of its music, special weekly programs

and exciting interviews. It was WCHC that featured special interviews and debut performances with groups such as The Cars and A Flock of Seagulls when they were first getting started.

WCHC DJs eagerly accept requests (the telephone number is 793-2474) and play everything from rock to new wave, folk to funk, country and western to rhythm and blues.

WCHC has an ever-changing format with a variety of special programs during the day, with an agenda that includes hourly newsbriefs, a classical music segment, a campus issues program, the "New Sound in Town" (a Saturday evening program which features new releases and requests), and an oldies show. Schildwacher describes the unusual variety of programs as a response to the station's "duty and obligation to provide an alternative."

The "alternative" that WCHC provides has become increasingly popular and has evolved into a favorite diversion from the "predictable" top-40 for Worcester students and residents alike.

# Newspeak

The student newspaper of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Volume 12, Number 11

Tuesday, May 1, 1984



## Proposed Student Body Constitution Announced

The Executive Council of Student Government has been revising the WPI Student Body Constitution. Reprinted below is a copy of the Constitution they have proposed.

Voting by WPI undergraduates on the proposed constitution will take place on Thursday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Daniels Hall across from the bookstore.

Elections for Campus Hearing Board also will be held at this time. The following people have been nominated: James Ball (incumbent), Karen Berka, Angela

Frankudakis, Robert Pizzano, and Paul Wyman.

### PROPOSED STUDENT BODY CONSTITUTION

#### PREAMBLE

In order to more fully participate in the educational process of WPI, to encourage wider and more effective communication among the various segments of the school community and to help foster an environment of student concern and achievement. We, the undergraduates

(continued on page 5)

## Professor Claims Real Issue Not Plan But Money

by James M. Coggins  
Assistant Professor, CS Department

Dismayed and confused by the debates over degree requirement changes? Hang on, then — you don't have the whole story yet. Degree requirements are not the real issue.

The degree requirement changes are only partly motivated by problems with the Comp and with the perception of our unusual grading system by employers and graduate schools. What is ultimately at stake in these debates is the strategy

(continued on page 7)

## A Letter to CAP Chairman

(Ed Note: This letter was written by a student to the CAP Chairman, a copy was given to *Newspeak* for publication.)

Two of my current professors, Professor Coggins of the Computer Science Department and Professor Zeugner of the Humanities Department, have mentioned to their classes this term the proposed Plan changes. As a senior graduating in less than a month, I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed changes.

I am not pleased with the plans to reinstate a traditional-type grading system in this school. This system would instill an element of competition currently lacking at this school. At least in the computer science department, there is an attitude of "We're all in this together; sure I'll help you." I believe that a tri-level grading system would change this to "Sorry, I am too busy to help you; I want to get an A!" A seven-week period is too short a time for such fine grade distinctions, and this would result in extra work for the faculty and students. Also, the proposal is not clear — if a student received a D grade in a course, would he

get an NR or be upgraded to an inflated C?

The idea of a fifteen-unit rule is also a departure from the tradition of the Plan. Students would end up taking easy courses or make-work projects to fulfill the credit requirement after they have completed all other requirements. It could make this school a 3-and-3/4-year school, with people not bothering during the last terms of their senior years. That is not much changed from the current rumor that this is a 3-and-1/2-year school. Also, any student that has problems adjusting to WPI in his freshman year, as have some students I know, would be forced to go for five years, overload, or go summers. I believe this rule would cause summer school enrollment to rise. This would also prevent experimentation and changes of major among students. I have done both of the above. I started out as a biomedical major and am now a computer science major. I also have experimented with biology, biomedical, and additional humanities courses in my four years here.

(continued on page 7)

## Rationale for Proposed Degree Requirement Changes Announced

(Ed. Note: The following was submitted by Prof. O'Connor to clarify why CAP has made their proposals. It is a memo, dated April 25, which CAP distributed to the faculty.)

During the 1983-84 year, the major topic to which the Committee on Academic Policy has devoted itself has been WPI Degree Requirements. With the exception of Term A (during which it reviewed the new Departmental Distribution Requirements), it has worked to submit to the faculty a proposal which would incorporate all of its envisioned changes. The proposal presented to the faculty on

April 19th represents this package (see Attachment).

In the process of formulating its recommendations, the CAP solicited — and received — many contributions from non-Committee members. After several Committee drafts, a CAP "Interim Report on the Competency Examination" was submitted for comment to all Department heads and the Committees on Governance, Academic Operations and Student Advising. Additionally, several members of the faculty were asked to present their views on the Competency Examination at CAP meetings. After nu-

(continued on page 3)

## Notes on the CAP Changes Forum

by Jody Bobbitt  
Newspeak Staff

Last Thursday's open forum to discuss the proposed Plan changes was a success with an estimated 10% of the campus population in attendance. Scott Hand opened the forum with a description of the proposed grade changes (AD/AC/NR to A/B/C/NR) and the Comp change (to a "Qualifying Exam" on basic knowledge in your major). The Committee on Academic Policy reviewed the degree requirements, the financial aid policies, admissions policies, and the grading system before coming to the decision to propose those changes.

The distribution requirements were changed last year, and now a vote will be taken on May 3 as to whether or not these changes go through at this point in time.

Apparently, the suggestion was made by Scott Hand to bring the two topics out into open discussion by the faculty and students, but this suggestion was voted down.

## Correction

In the April 25th edition of *Newspeak*, Professor Coggins' letter was interspersed with another article. The *Newspeak* staff apologizes for the inconvenience.

Dean Bill Grogan spoke next on his view of the subject. His main rationale for the change to an A/B/C/NR grading system was the fact that it was necessary for other schools, services, scholarships and summer jobs to have access to a cumulative grade point average. Usually, when these groups look at a WPI student's transcript, they interpret AC as meaning C. This, in his eyes, is a slight that costs WPI students a lot in the long run. On the other hand, he admitted he did not want the students here at Tech to stop helping each other in their academic endeavors, and did not want competition to run rampant on campus. So-called "grade-grubbing" was not what he was after. In his mind, the decision on the grade system changes was a stand-alone one, and had very little, if any, bearing on the accompanying Comp change.

Dean Grogan proceeded to enumerate the changes in the distribution requirements and the Comp. He said that our credibility as a four year college was damaged by the 12 units needed to graduate here. During the summer of 1982, when the previously mentioned examinations were made of the grading, financial aid, admissions and degree requirement systems, he decided to press for an increase in credits necessary to graduate to 14 units.

He remarked that the Comp, as it is now, really drives the system hard here, (continued on page 3)

★ EDITORIAL ★

# In Defense of the Staff

Recently, I received a letter from Pamela Edington complaining about our lack of coverage on Shirley Chisholm's speech. The letter reads as follows:

To the Editor:

On Thursday, April 19, Shirley Chisholm presented the 1984 Hull Memorial Lecture in Kinnicutt Hall. Mrs. Chisholm's views on the issues of social justice, equality and political power, forged by over 25 years of public service, have elevated her to the status of national personage. Her remarks Thursday night on "Politics in 1984" were an infrequent opportunity for WPI students to hear someone of her experience and reputation speak on contemporary issues.

The decision by **Newspeak** to cover the event with only a photograph in the April 25th issue was unfortunate. In this instance, a "picture is not worth a thousand words." A short paragraph on the essence of her speech would have been a much more effective use of limited space.

In the future, I hope your first priority will be to give your readers something to think about.

— Pamela Edington  
Projects Administrator

I think Ms. Edington's ignorance is typical of most people on this campus. Out of the approximately 2400 students in

the student body, there are no more than four regular news and features writers currently on the staff. Those people who are not on the staff — and would never consider being on it — are the ones who most frequently complain. Well, let me give Ms. Edington and the rest of those who believe the same something to think about.

There are about 6 people on the staff that put in about 10 hours — PAYLESS HOURS — every week in order to put out the best and most informative paper possible every week. We do not profess to doing a perfect job every week, but I believe we do very well for the limited time and resources that we have. Did you know that our Advertising Manager also writes regularly and types 3-4 hours on Sunday morning? Did you know that our secretary also writes and does the Poison Pen every week? Were you aware that our Graphics Editor was here on 4/22/84 from 9 in the morning until 6 that evening putting together last week's 20 page issue? Or that we won first place in the American Scholastic Press Association Competition recently? The next time you want to criticize us for something, I ask that before you do so, consider this: would you be willing to spend the amount of time that some of our staff members do to put out a paper?

— Kirsten Storm  
Editor, **Newspeak**

## Letters Policy

WPI **Newspeak** welcomes letters to the editor. Letters submitted for the publication should be typed (double spaced) and contain the typed or printed name of the author as well as the author's signature. Letters should contain a phone number for verification. Students submitting letters to the editor should put their class year after their name. Faculty and staff should include their full title. Letters deemed libelous or irrelevant to the WPI community will not be published.

The editors reserve the right to edit letters for correct punctuation and spelling. Letters to the editor are due by noon on the Saturday preceding publication. Send them to WPI box 2700 or bring them to the **Newspeak** Office, Riley 01.

Commentary articles reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily **Newspeak**.

# Newspeak

(USPS 535-480)

The student newspaper of Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Box 2700 WPI, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609  
Phone (617) 793-5464

<b>news/features editor</b> Howard B. Bernard	<b>editor-in-chief</b> Kirsten Storm	<b>faculty advisor</b> Kent Ljungquist
<b>photography editor</b> Walter Plante	<b>business manager</b> Ed Childs	<b>advertising manager</b> Carol Wilder
<b>sports editors</b> Greg Tashjian Kathleen Taylor	<b>circulation manager</b> Sue Stidsen	<b>associate editors</b> Steve Knopping Maureen O'Brien Dave Drab Jeff Winick
	<b>graphics editor</b> Carlo Verrengia	

## STAFF

Tom Arsenault	Jim Goodell	Bob Pizzano
Jon Baskin	Nelson Kuo	Paul Rienzo
Jeanne M. Benjamin	Eric T. Langevin	Kieran Suckling
Jody Bobbitt	Jeff Lenard	Henry Valcour
Bill Champlin	Jack McLaughlin	David Wall
Andy Ferreira	Jennifer Mellone	Dan Weinschenker
Chris Good	Steve Olivier	

WPI **Newspeak** of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, formerly the Tech News, has been published weekly during the academic year, except during college vacations, since 1909. Letters to the editor must be signed and contain a telephone number for verification. WPI **Newspeak** subscribes to Collegiate Press Service, Collegiate Headlines, and National On-Campus Reports. Editorial and business offices are located in Room 01, Sanford Riley Hall at WPI. Copy deadline is noon on the Saturday preceding publication. Typesetting done by Laplante Associates. Printing done by Enterprise Printing and Graphics Company. First class postage paid at Worcester, Massachusetts. Subscription rate is \$10.00 per school year, single copies 60 cents within the continental United States. Make all checks payable to WPI **Newspeak**.

## Commentary

# On Teaching Methods at WPI

by Jody Bobbitt  
Newspeak Staff

The quickest way that I can find  
To fail a course today  
Is an unconcerned professor  
Or a similar T.A.  
Calculus is bad enough  
It's like a foreign tongue  
And garbled as it all might seem  
You might as well be hung.  
Sometimes it's not their fault, you know  
They leave us at a loss  
And each and every great attempt  
Can't get the point across.  
The definition's hard to grasp  
And they ask, "What's the matter?"  
If I knew, I'd understand  
So my head is on a platter.  
So please interpret what you do  
To clear my ringing head  
And save me from those lecturers  
Who exceed the speed of lead  
I plead with all professors  
To write larger on the board  
Please focus all the overhead  
Projectors and, my Lord  
Use words that we can understand  
Explain the things you do  
We're spending seven grand a year  
To learn this stuff from you!!!

## Cynic's Corner

# On Spree Day

by Andy Ferreira  
Newspeak Staff

(Folks, I am writing this article on the morning of April 27th, 1984 — Spree Day, in the interests of maximizing my fun, this article will be rather short.)

Since today is Spree Day, let's talk about that. As freshmen we really didn't know what to expect. So far things are going great — beautiful weather, beautiful girls, and, of course, full refrigerators.

But there are some other questions in our minds, such as when is it socially acceptable to start imbibing? Should we wait till after lunch or go for the gusto and accept a beer when we stagger to the shower? And what about the band? I've never heard of them before. I've been told that they were big in the early 70s or so. I don't know (should I trust a band that's named Chicken Legs, or some other part of such an animal?). But, we'll give 'em a chance — after all, it's Spree Day.

Spree Day brought out the detective in us all. For the past week we've all been

saying "It's tomorrow", or "It's Wednesday", or "I heard that...". The best bet first would have been Wednesday, but it was raining so you could eliminate that guess. And then what about Thursday? On Wednesday that seemed to be the prime date. After all, even my RA said they'd never have Spree Day on a Friday, too close to the weekend. However, by Wednesday evening my sources of information seemed to be ambiguous. On one hand there was logic saying Spree Day would be Thursday. On the other hand, there was word out from Daka that they had ordered an additional 65-dozen hamburger buns and 65-dozen hot dog rolls to be delivered for FRIDAY. Hmmm, maybe I should do that homework tonight.

Good thing that I did. Thursday rolls around — no signs, no bands, no Spree Day. I had to let out a little chuckle at those poor souls who had bet their lives on Thursday being Spree Day and drunk to their hearts' content. Then the rumors started flowing again — "Pssst, Spree Day's tomorrow!" I was convinced.

(continued on page 3)

## Office Hours

Monday	9-12, 1-5
Tuesday	9-12, 1-2, 3-4
Wednesday	12-1, 2-3
Thursday	10-11, 2-3
Friday	9-10, 11-12, 1-2, 3-4

## ... Cynics Corner

(continued from page 2)

There were small things pointing to Friday being Spree Day, such as the extra hot dog and hamburger buns. And then word came out to Daka workers to be there a half-hour early on Friday. So I was fairly confident that Spree Day had come. But I wasn't absolutely sure — I still planned to be up all night to do that Data Structures program.

Then Thursday evening, in the Snack Bar, I saw the clinching piece of evidence. There was a Daka worker making up a sign that said "Spree Day Menu". And so I said to myself, "Self, it looks like you won't be staying up tonight to do work." And I replied, "You're right. Let's get trashed." And so we did.

Hope you had a happy Spree Day and enjoyed the **Newspeak** edition.

## ... JP Nightclub

(continued from page 1)

audience) liked it (Beatles music) so much the first time."

Lenny Clark, who performed between the band's sets, was well-received also. His informal routine scored several hits with jokes about embarrassing and painful situations like "measuring up" at a nude beach and being beaten up by nuns in parochial school. Clark overused profanity, but although he is no George Carlin, he knew how to use it effectively to lend additional punch to jokes or devastate a heckler.

If I were running the Night Club, I would have had Clark on stage longer. I also would have allowed some time for conversation and socializing; when neither Down East nor Lenny Clark was on stage canned music was played, so there was no time when promgoers could chat with each other without yelling themselves hoarse.

Lastly, the well-known green tarp put down to protect the floor was a hazard to dancers. Of course, the floor needs protecting and JP is hardly a sock-hop-type event; but the tarp is not a good solution. It slips on the floor, making vigorous dancers liable to fall, and it was badly torn by the flying feet, damaging it and the floor and making several people trip.

But these criticisms are minor. The Nightclub was a very enjoyable event, worth more than the price charged. It was very well organized and run by Beth Dupell and the JP Committee, with enjoyable entertainment and pleasant surroundings.

Planners of future events should take note of the 1984 Junior Prom Nightclub. The music, comedy and atmosphere were really more enjoyable than at any other WPI mixer or dance I've attended.

## ... Notes on the CAP

(continued from page 1)

and causes narrowness in engineering majors. There is a vast discrepancy in the Comp between different engineering disciplines. In the Civil Engineering department, one may come across a 95% pass/AD rate, while in the Chemical Engineering department the same Comp period will yield a 50% pass/AD rate. The Comp, in Dean Grogan's opinion, comes too late in the educational game and too much depends on it. There is also a vast lack of attention to follow-up of failures, which only perpetuates the negative outlook of those who do not pass.

While some faculty explore why the student failed, and what remedial work needs doing, others don't help at all and leave the student feeling like a failure in their discipline, and a failure in life. Dean Grogan remarked that if the distribution requirements had been here all along, there would probably have been no such thing as the Comp, because there would probably have been no need.

In closing, he said he was still all for the strong project program, and wanted the flexibility that we know here at WPI to remain.

Scott Hand responded to Dean Grogan's remarks with the following comments. Input from outside CAP abounded, but he questioned how closely it was listened to. At issue here was the fact that the qualifying exam in the junior year might not be able to cover what was necessary to make a competent engineer, as most useful courses in the major disciplines are taught in the late junior/early senior years. The 15-unit rule which could come into play in the near future

would allow only three failed courses in a normal WPI curriculum (without overloads). This leaves little or no room for failure, unless the student wishes to do a lot of overloading or change their year of graduation.

Professor Segansky of the Electrical Engineering Department spoke a short while later, saying that WPI needs some experimentation. He remarked that the faculty does, indeed, care about the students here, and that they only want to help.

Student remarks were heard throughout the session, and were responded to by Dean Grogan and Professor Segansky at times.

One remark was made to the effect that 15 units equals about 45 credits at any other college, whereas most of them required only 38 or 39 credits to graduate.

Dean Grogan remarked that there were two paths WPI could take: to meet traditional schools like RPI and MIT on their own ground (although it is a bit late to try and change enough to meet them on their own turf), or to be different from them and continue to reach for the students that the Plan has always attracted. He would like to see the school as being well-rounded, but not cut-throat.

Jack Nickerson, a student, urged students and faculty to discuss the plan changes between now and the voting session on May 3.

In the meantime, students are urged to sign the petition which will be in the Wedge on Monday and Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This petition attests to

(continued on page 8)

## ... Rationale for Proposed Degree Requirements

(continued from page 1)

merous responses and contributions, the CAP revised its initial recommendations (as incorporated in the "Interim Report"). Although a wide variation of opinion — as was expected — was represented in these contributions, some general consensus did seem to emerge.

### Grading System

The CAP's proposal to change the grading system so as to include three passing grades rather than the current two, is based on the belief that the current grading system is hurting WPI students in two ways:

1. Our grading system communicates the general level of the accomplishment of our students to those considering them for reasons of job placement, scholarships, and graduate school acceptance. There appears to be no problem with the DIST, for that is generally construed as an "A". Unfortunately, the AC is looked upon externally as a "C". Many of our students whose work is at the upper half of that very broad AC zone are not getting the recognition they deserve relative to the students at other colleges whose "good" but not distinguished work is recognized with a "B".

2. Internally, there is evidence that a number of students who, upon seeing that an AD is out of their reach early in a course, cut back and do only about what is necessary to get a low AC. Some of them don't even attempt to achieve an AC grade. At any rate, they do not continue to give the work their continued best efforts.

Further support for a more traditional grading system has come from a recent survey conducted by the Admissions Office. WPI's current grading system is often looked at as a "Pass-Fail" system, and such systems are not currently attractive to most prospective students and their parents.

The proposed grading system would both motivate and reward students better than the current grading system. It would do so without establishing Cumulative Point Average requirements

either for graduation or for graduation honors, and without shifting from a system based on personal achievement rather than interpersonal rivalry.

### The Qualifying Examination

Although some faculty members favor the Competency Examination, few seem to feel that it is completely successful in its present form. Those who defend the

Competency Examination concept seek other changes in the system which might make it more successful (such as: a "5th year" for those students who do not pass it on two attempts; a two-stage Competency examination, which would involve a "comprehensive" examination in the junior year and a current style "Competency" examination in the senior year; changes in the length of Terms; etc.)

In its "Interim Report," CAP listed many items which have been brought to its attention by faculty as difficulties with the current examination:

1. The exam occurs too late in students' careers.
2. Failure rate is excessive.
3. Tests skills which are not taught.
4. Grading is inconsistent.
5. Exam benefits may not outweigh costs in faculty and student time and trauma.
6. The exam marks (with the MQP) the de facto end of students' careers, and discourages good planning for a full four-year program.
7. The Competency requirement excessively focuses student effort and planning on passing one exam.
8. Determination of overall "professional competence" in a single 3-5 day exam is not possible.
9. Counselling and remedial action after exam failure are provided erratically.

CAP believes that sufficient evidence exists supporting the above items to warrant significant revision of the exam. Replacement of the Competency Examination by the Qualifying Examination described in the memorandum to the faculty dated April 19 (see Attachment), CAP believes, would alleviate most problems while retaining the major positive aspects of the current exam. Such an examination would focus on the fundamental concepts in or related to the major area of study, and occur at or before the junior year. While CAP's "Interim Report" considered the option of eliminating the Competency Examination without any type of examination replacement, it did note that an early Qualifying Examination could be effective if properly administered.

In the event that a student did not pass the proposed Qualifying Exam, adequate time would exist for remedial work without major disturbance to the student's career plans. The more limited and well-defined scope of the examination would facilitate student preparation for the examination. For the same reason, grading consistency would also be improved.

Additionally, such an examination would provide valuable diagnostic feedback to the student, his/her advisor, and to the Departmental faculties concerning areas of educational weakness. In the absence of required courses, such an examination can also help assure the necessary breadth in areas underlying the student's major field. Furthermore, such an examination could contribute to the uniqueness of a WPI education (although in the Admissions Office's view, the Competency Examination is not a significant factor in attracting students to WPI).

The proposed Qualifying Examination would encourage and test breadth in fundamental knowledge and basic skills in the major area. In the absence of required courses, the breadth required within the fundamental sub-areas of the student's major cannot be assured by the broad categories of the Distribution Requirements. This is particularly true for those disciplines with strong parallel structures in the core area rather than sequential prerequisite structures.

The proposed Qualifying Examination would maintain many of the positive aspects of the current Competency Examination. It would provide students the opportunity and incentive to review materials in a comprehensive fashion and to integrate the basic concepts of their disciplines. In the absence of comprehensive course examinations, this is currently not being done even at the individual course level. It would also serve a quality control function, but at a point in the student's career where appropriate and effective remedial action can be taken. It would both provide a check on academic quality and performance and engender the self-confidence often associated with successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

### The 15-Unit Rule

Even in Departments with 10 Unit Distribution Requirements, under the current system students would — at minimum — complete only 14 Units (including the IQP, Humanities Sufficiency, Social Science and Physical Education requirements). A higher unit requirement on the minimum total units needed for graduation is necessary in order to preserve the academic credibility of our educational system as representing a four-year program.

All significant components of our educational program should be supported by some aspect of our degree requirements. Clearly one significant aspect is the freedom of students to choose some

activities without any disciplinary restrictions. The total unit rule proposed would simply require that students exercise that choice rather than limiting their efforts to the prescribed areas.

In reaction to the increasingly complex nature of technological education, some schools are moving towards undergraduate programs of more than the traditional four year duration. The average engineering student in the United States now takes about 4.6 years to complete his or her undergraduate program. ABET assumes a minimum of a four-year undergraduate program for its accreditation in Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering.

Currently, there are some indications that a number of WPI students are not planning a full four-year program of undergraduate studies. By focusing on completion of only as many units as is necessary to satisfy their degree requirements, these students are failing to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them at WPI and are narrowing the breadth of their undergraduate experience. Without a total unit rule, the breadth and depth basic to our undergraduate program will be threatened. Current analyses of the members of the Class of 1984 indicate substantial problems concerning the breadth of their educational programs.

Pressures on students to save on tuition expenditures and to reap the rewards of an early entry into the job market can only be expected to increase. As educational costs rise and the engineering job market becomes more competitive, we can expect further pressure towards a three and one-half year program. Indications of this problem exist already. In the Class of 1982, 73% completed 15 units or less of an expected 16 unit program.

In summary, educational and accreditation considerations indicate the need for a minimal requirement on academic credit equivalent to a four-year program. It is felt that 15 units of credit, together with our other degree requirements, is readily defensible as representative of a full four-year undergraduate program. Considerable flexibility exists in the system to complete these units since 1/6 unit per semester is allowed for overload at no charge. PE does not count as overload, and a student can carry up to one unit during four intersessions at no extra charge.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Metro-To-Go Goes Over Well

by Jim Fenstermacher

Last Friday's "Metro-To-Go" went over surprisingly well. After a nominal Spree Day (although perfect weather) with a nominal band (Chicken Legs Revue?? Certainly we can do better than that), the Metro-To-Go seemed to be one of the better events of the day.

The play list was a little old, but at least it was well-balanced: only a few Michael Jackson tunes, one by Van Halen and a few by the Clash. There were also some tunes by Benatar, Police, Talking Heads, Donna Summer, Prince, David Bowie, Billie Idol (if "Rebel Yell" doesn't make you want to dance, there's a problem), Culture Club, Thompson Twins, Rix, Kim Wilde, a few I didn't recognize, and many I don't recall.

Most Metro-goers "dressed to impress", and it was surprising how many stayed right to the end, at 1:15, even though the bar closed at 12:30 (dance off that last beer, I suppose).

The mixing for Friday's event was done at the Metro of Boston where, as one

Metro employee said, "you wouldn't believe the editing equipment we got there". Most of the Metros-To-Go are "canned" in this manner, although they can do a "live" show with a disc jockey and a video jockey ("yeah, it's hard to do because it takes good ears to synch it").

The Metro has several Metros-To-Go; in fact, the Friday they played here there were two others going on and one more being set up. Metro-To-Go is able to tailor-make their format for each place they play. For instance, they once spent two days getting tapes ready and putting a good audio-visual show together for a benefit party in Boston that was a suit-and-tie affair. The biggest party Metro-To-Go plays is probably the annual Kiss-108 FM closed party. For such events there are multiple video screens, many series of tape decks, lasers, and a bigger light show than we saw Friday.

The M-T-G is available for small events also (they will be playing at a Bar Mitzvah

(continued on page 8)

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Worcester Art Museum's Tour of the Month, entitled "A Birder's Tour of the Worcester Art Museum" will take place on May 15 and 19. Led by Museum docent Mark Lynch, these tours will leave the Salisbury Lobby at 1 p.m.

Participants are urged to bring binoculars plus North American and European field guides for the occasion. The tour will explore the biology, ecology and mythology of various bird species represented in Museum artworks.

The tour is available to the public at no charge.

The Worcester Art Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For further information, please call the Museum at 799-4406.

He believes that there exists a well-entrenched "mythology" of Western violence that diverges sharply from historical record. Professor Dykstra is the author of *The Cattle Towns* and other writings on the nineteenth-century American West.

Seminar members will pursue study projects that combine careful historical research on singular aspects or episodes of Western violence with assessments of how such events have been handled, first, in the nineteenth-century Eastern press and, second, in autobiography, popular biography, popular history, and literature.

The AAS American Studies seminar, now in its seventh year, is a special collaborative effort undertaken by the Society in cooperation with the five four-year colleges and universities located in Worcester. Students are selected by an Advisory Education Committee composed of representatives of each of the colleges and AAS.

The seminar will meet Friday afternoons during the fall semester. The seminar is administered by John B. Hench, Assistant Director for Research and Publication at AAS. Students interested in knowing more about the seminar, or in applying, should contact their campus representatives. They are Professors Kenneth Moynihan, Assumption College; Martyn Bowden, Clark University; William J. Zlobro, College of the Holy Cross; Peter Onuf, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Robert McGraw, Worcester State College.

## WPI Musicians To Give Free Concert

The Worcester Polytechnic Brass Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Stage Band will perform in a combined spring concert at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, May 1, in Alden Hall.

The Brass Choir and Wind Ensemble are directed by Douglas Weeks. The Stage Band is under the direction of Richard Faico.

The Brass Choir comprises twenty brass players from WPI; the Wind Ensemble is made up of thirty-five brass, woodwind,

and percussion players from WPI, other Consortium Colleges, and area high schools. The Stage Band consists of twenty brass, keyboard, percussion, and guitar players from WPI.

Some of the featured selections are to include "Soundings", by Fisher Tull; "Mars"; by Gustav Holst; "Just A Closer Walk", arranged by Don Gillis; and "Yardbird Suite", by Charlie Parker.

Admission to the concert is free of charge. All are welcome to attend.

## Hall Vote Ugly Man

by Jim Goodell  
Newspeak Staff

The winner of this year's Ugly Man on Campus contest is Al Hall of ATO. Al is the little brother of last year's ugly man, Tom Huckman.

A fee of 25¢ was charged for each vote. Five votes could be bought for a dollar. The money raised will be donated to the charity of the winner's choice.

Near the end of the voting, Al and Tom

clinched the race with a large contribution to the fund. This generous contribution brought the total money raised up to \$245.

When buying a vote, the voters also bought a chance to win a \$20 Strawberries gift certificate. Ken Ciems' ballot was chosen for the prize.

Second place was taken by Julian Broughton of AXP and Erik Noack of Theta Chi was third.

## BILBO'S TOP TEN

by Bob Pizzano and Bill Champlin  
Newspeak Staff

This week, our pick hit is from the group Slade. Their latest single, "Run, Runaway", is the first in a few years.

Slade is a heavy metal band from the U.K. The group has the distinction of having their first three singles topping the charts in that country. Among their hits is "Cum on Feel the Noize", of which a cover version was performed last year by Quiet Riot.

Slade has enjoyed little success in the United States. "Run, Runaway" is their highest charting single here. It is currently nestled in the middle of the Hot 100. Perhaps their recent success can be

attributed to a new sound, similar to Big Country.

If you would like to be polled for next week's top ten, send your three favorite songs with their respective artists to Bilbo at Box 1084. Please include your name and box number.

1. "They Don't Know" — Tracey Ullman
2. "Against all Odds" — Phil Collins
3. "Footloose" — Kenny Loggins
4. "The Reflex" — Duran Duran
5. "Murder" — David Gilmour
6. "Hello" — Lionel Richie
7. "No More Words" — Berlin
8. "Whisper to a Scream" — Icicle Works
9. "A Fine Day" — Tony Carey
10. "The Heart of Rock and Roll" — Huey Lewis and the News

## NEWSPEAK NOTEBOOK

Tuesday, May 1, 1979, Newspeak Article

"Last Thursday night the audience in the Wedge was treated to a delightful one man performance by talented local born musician Roger Salloom . . . The Song which received the best response was one that many people sympathize with called "I've Got to Get Out of Worcester" which he prefaced with the line "Suicide in Worcester is redundant!"

Tuesday, April 29, 1975, Newspeak Article

"If you are a sexually liberated person we would appreciate your acceptance of a new organization at WPI, the WPI GAY ALLIANCE . . .

If you're gay and would like to meet other gay people write to us at the following address:

WPI GAY ALLIANCE  
Box 2118  
Clark University  
Worcester, Mass.

c-o Clark Gay Alliance

The Clark Gay Alliance has kindly lent us the use of their mail box to receive letters."

Tuesday, November 5, 1940, Tech News Article

"One highlight of the annual Homecoming Day celebration to be held Saturday, November 9, will be the official breaking of ground for the new Mechanical Engineering building.

With contributions to the building fund for the new M.E. building rapidly approaching the required \$350,000 . . . the ground breaking ceremony will be held immediately before the dedication of Alden Memorial.

The building will be of Tudor type architecture to complete the quadrangle with Alumni Gymnasium, Sanford Riley Hall, and Alden Memorial."

## POLICE LOG

Friday, April 20

1:46 a.m. — Student came into Campus Police Station to report that a brown Pontiac LeMans drove by and the occupants hit him with a few eggs. The vehicle proceeded down West Street from Highland Street.

3:21 a.m. — WPI students were observed on Massachusetts Ave. using a chain saw. Students were advised to be on their way.

9:57 p.m. — Fire alarm was activated in Morgan Hall. Student had set off the detector by touching it.

Saturday, April 21

2:12 a.m. — Student at one of the fraternities reported a stereo system, consisting of a tape deck, receiver, and turntable had been stolen from the first floor room.

Sunday, April 22

12:36 a.m. — Campus Police reported another mailbox has broken glass.

12:44 a.m. — Student called complaining of loud noise from a party in Ellsworth-Fuller.

6:30 p.m. — Student called saying his VW parked in front of his apartment on Highland Street was set on fire. Worcester Police were already notified.

Wednesday, April 25

3:30 a.m. — Campus Police reported a fight going on between two of the fraternities. Campus Police settled the incident.

5:46 p.m. — Neighbor called to complain about a "distasteful" sign in a Stoddard window. The sign was removed.

Thursday, April 26

1:10 a.m. — Campus Police were advised by residents that firecrackers were being set off on a floor of Morgan. Campus Police were unable to locate subject responsible for action.

6:15 p.m. — Another mailbox was broken.

8:25 p.m. — A student called to report that bottles were being dropped out of windows in Stoddard Complex.

9:32 p.m. — Fire alarm went off in Stoddard Complex. Campus Police found that a smoke detector in one of the buildings had been dislodged.

## HOTEL LIQUIDATION SALE!

DESK CHAIRS .....	\$ 4.95
DESKS 18"x41"x30"H .....	\$19.95
ARM CHAIRS Upholstered ...	\$19.95

Hours:  
Tues.-Sat.  
10-5

# RAINBOW

FURNITURE CLEARINGHOUSE

215 Summer St., Worcester 752-9143

Wed  
10-9



# ... Proposed Student Body Constitution Announced

(continued from page 1)

of WPI do hereby adopt the following Constitution.

## ARTICLE I

Name: The Student Government of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

## ARTICLE II

Members of the Student Government shall include the President, the Secretary, the Class Officers, the Independent Representative, and the members of the following organizations: Academic Committee, Campus Hearing Board, Committee of Concerned Students, Dormitory Advisory Committee, Interfraternity Council, Student Activities Board, and the Social Committee.

1. Each and every one of the organizations listed above shall have the right to form temporary or permanent sub-committees from among the WPI community in a manner the organization shall prescribe.

2. No organization shall infringe upon the powers and duties of any other organization; in such case of infringement, the Executive Council shall determine jurisdiction by a majority vote.

3. Each organization should give prior notice of all meetings through the school newspaper and/or the Student Government bulletin board.

4. All organizational meetings shall be open to the WPI community unless closed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the organization, in which case only the persons in a given case may be present in addition to the members of that organization.

## ARTICLE III Class Officers

### Section A: Membership

The officers of each undergraduate class, i.e., Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior, shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Class Representative.

### Section B: Powers and Duties

The class officers shall provide information to each represented class on all pertinent activities said class is involved in or planning. In addition, each class representative shall attend all Executive Council meetings to report on class progress and to relay information from the Executive Council to each class.

## ARTICLE IV

### The Executive Council

#### Section A: Membership

This organization shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the Student Government, Class and Independent Representatives, and the Chairpersons of the following committees: Academic Committee, Campus Hearing Board, Committee of Concerned Students, Dormitory Advisory Committee, Interfraternity Council, Student Activities Board, and the Social Committee.

1. Each organization of the Student Government shall be governed by their Bylaws as approved by the Executive Council. Any power not defined in the Constitution and its Bylaws shall not be considered contrary to the Constitution and its Bylaws.

#### Section B: Powers and Duties

1. The Executive Council shall establish and define all rules for the Student Body Government. Copies of all such rules shall be available to all members of the WPI community. The Executive Council shall be the final authority in all matters of Student Government with the exception of judicial decisions and a majority vote on a student referendum or amendment (see Article V).

2. It shall require reports from all its members at each Executive Council meeting.

3. It shall have the power to appoint special committees and make any necessary appointments.

4. It shall have the power to create joint committees to work in areas which fall under the jurisdiction of more than one organization of Student Government.

5. It shall recommend action to the organizations of Student Government.

6. It shall have the power to order, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members, an organization of the Executive Council to deliberate upon a specific problem.

7. It shall have the power to remove by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all its members, any member of the Executive Council on written notice who by neglect of duty or otherwise, tends to impair the usefulness of his/her organization and/or the Executive Council.

8. The Executive Council shall supervise the filling of any vacancies in the Student Government.

9. It shall have the final vote on the Student Activities Board and Social Committee budgets which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all its members, in order to be approved.

10. The Executive Council may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all its members, invalidate an election for just cause within five (5) school days of said election. In such case, another election must be held within ten (10) school days of the date on which the election was invalidated.

11. The Executive Council may, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all its members, propose amendments and referenda.

12. The Executive Council may, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all its members, override the President's veto.

### Section C: Meetings

1. The Executive Council is expected to hold biweekly meetings during the school year. Additional meetings may be called by the President. All meetings of the Executive Council shall be opened to the WPI community unless closed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all those members present. In the event a meeting is closed, a school newspaper reporter and principals involved shall be permitted to attend but shall not be permitted to participate in any discussion during the meeting.

2. In the absence of both the President of the Student Government and the Se-

cretary, a meeting will not be held.

3. For an Executive Council vote to take place there must be a quorum of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Council members excluding proxies.

4. All meetings of the Executive Council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order where applicable and not in conflict with the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Student Government.

5. The Executive Council is responsible to maintain a permanent record of all its meetings. These records shall be available to all members of the WPI community.

## ARTICLE V

Amendments and referenda may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Council (see Article IV, Section 4). An amendment or referendum shall require for adoption a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast in a general election. Such vote shall be preceded by an article in the school newspaper, a period of full discussion and an explanation of the issue and display of the proposed amendment or referendum for at least one (1) week. All amendments and referenda are effective upon adoption.

## ARTICLE VI Student Rights

1. Any full time undergraduate student enrolled at this college is eligible to vote in general elections and shall be considered eligible to hold an office in the Student Government, as specified in this Constitution.

2. Any student who was an official candidate for any of the seats on Student Government can protest an election. The protest must be filed in writing with the Executive Council within five (5) school days of the election. Upon receipt of the protest the Executive Council may invalidate or rule the election valid (see Article IV, Section B, Number 10 and the Election Bylaws).

3. Students may also initiate the removal of an Executive Council member. The complaint must be signed by at least one third (1/3) of the current voting community. Upon receipt and verification of the petition by the Executive Council, the member shall be removed from office.

(continued on page 7)

## ASME Annual Picnic to be Held Tomorrow

Come one, Come all! Invitations are extended to faculty to partake of the ASME Annual Spring Picnic, Wednesday, May 2.

This fun-filled event will take place at a camp near Paxton. (Maps will be placed in your mailboxes and are posted in Higgins Labs.)

There will be plenty of good food and drink. Horseshoe throwing, canoeing, and even swimming for the very brave will be available to all who attend.

There is a \$2.00 charge for non-members, but you're welcome nonetheless! For more information, contact any of the ASME officers.

## Shirley Chisholm "Politics in 1984"

On April 19th Shirley Chisholm graced the WPI campus with her lecture on "Politics in 1984", as 1984's Hull Memorial Lecture.

Ms. Chisholm spoke about the grass roots of politics in Washington, D.C. and the different administrations from the 1950s to the present.

In this election year Ms. Chisholm can be found on the campaign trail for Jesse

Jackson. Although Ms. Chisholm believes in Jackson — she is a realist, and when pressed for some speculation about the Democratic nominee she replied that she expected Gary Hart to win.

Ms. Chisholm also said that on Capitol Hill men can be mediocre, but women must be close to perfection to compete. All in all, Ms. Chisholm showed herself to be the tough woman she truly is.

## Theo's Restaurant & PIZZA

### Breakfast

Eggs & Bacon  
Homemade Muffins  
and MORE!

### Lunch

Pizza  
Grinders

### Dinner

Spaghetti  
Dinners  
Etc.

Everyday Specials  
Beer & Wine Served

### Open

Sun.-Tues. 7 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Wed.-Sat. 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## FURNISHED APARTMENT

Sublet wanted from mid-May through mid-August for couple.  
\$200-\$300 range. 856-3255.

# AIM HIGH



## Take Control

We're looking for people who can take control of the skies as pilots in the U.S. Air Force. It's a challenging and exciting career with great advantages such as 30 days of vacation with pay each year and complete medical care. Plus, the opportunity to serve your country. Talk to an Air Force recruiter today.



Contact TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHUCK WAYMAN at 793-0444 or Air Force ROTC, MAJOR JIM ROBERTS at 793-3343.

# SPORTS

## Track Ends Season 8-2

by Paul M. Nowak

The WPI track team wrapped up its 1984 season with an 8-2 record. In the last week and a half of the season the engineers scored impressive wins over Coast Guard Academy and Brandeis, while suffering losses to both MIT and Trinity. This was Coach Norcross' nineteenth consecutive winning season.

### Steam by CGA

The team traveled to New London, Conn. on April 18 to secure its seventh straight win. After twelve events the score was tied at 52-52 before the Engineers surged to a 94-69 victory. As several top contributors were absent, the key to WPI's success laid in the team's depth.

This was the first time in twenty years that the Engineers have beaten the cadets. Coach Norcross was extremely pleased with the performance of the whole team — and cited such standout performances as: Scott Hand's double win in both the 1500 (4:16.6) and 5000 (16:03.9), Lloyd Tepper's double in the 100 (11.6) and 200 (23.2), and Pete Sifferlen's win in the discus (145') and second in the hammer (170' 8"). Other winners for Worcester Poly were: Franz Roesner in the High Jump (5'10"), Jerry Robblee in the steeplechase (10:11.8), John Economou in the 400 (52.4), Larry Haith in the shot (43' 6.75"), and Dan "Boog" Powell in the triple jump (42' 8.25").

### Split with MIT/Brandeis

Competing in a tri-meet involving the strongest team in New England Div. III, Worcester Poly lost its first meet of the season. Though the final score was MIT 114, WPI 67, and Brandeis 22, the meet was actually a lot closer than it appeared. After eight events, the best engineering school in New England held a slim 34-32 advantage — unfortunately that was the last time MIT was behind.

Overall it was a disappointing day for WPI. Not only was the weather terrible, but many individuals had off days.

Dan Pond was the only double winner for WPI by capturing the high hurdles (14.9) and the high jump (5'10"). Individual winners for WPI were: Pat Barry in the long jump (20' 9.75"), Jerry Robblee in the steeplechase (9:45.8), and Dan Powell in the triple jump (42' 7.75").

### Trinity Too Strong

The Engineers closed their regular season with a disappointing loss to a surprisingly strong Trinity squad. WPI was never really in it from the start of the 86-68 loss. Trinity came out strong by winning 11 of the 18 events with some impressive times and places. WPI's Dan Pond and Pete Sifferlen both logged double wins. Dan's took both the high hurdles (15.1) and the high jump (6' 0"), while Pete cleaned up in the hammer (168' 7") and discus (139' 7"). Other winners were: Pat Barry in the long jump (19' 8.25"), Dan Powell in the triple jump (41' 5"), and Larry Haith in the shot (44' 8.25").

### The Season in Retrospect

According to Coach Norcross the season was better than anticipated. He also pointed to the recapturing of the City Championships as well as finally beating CGA as clearly being the high points of the season. The leading scores for WPI were: Lloyd Tepper in the 100, 200, and both relays, Pete Sifferlen in the hammer and discus, and Dan Pond in the high jump and high hurdles. As of right now Pete Sifferlen will be WPI's sole representative at the Div. III National Championships this summer. However, 10 members of the team will be competing in the Div. III New England's next weekend, so there's still a chance for more qualifiers. The losses to graduation this year will be heavy, however, the team consists of many talented freshmen.

## Tech Nine Has Tough Week

by Greg Tashjian  
Sports Editor

The WPI baseball team had a very rough week on the diamond.

On Monday they lost a tough one to Assumption 4-3 in extra innings. Bob Hess pitched well in this game with 11 strikeouts. WPI had a 3-1 lead with two out in the bottom of the ninth when a home run tied it up. The Engineers eventually lost in the tenth.

In the first game Bob Hess again took a tough loss in a good effort as WPI fell 3-2. Hess gave up only 8 hits. Chuck Hickey had on a double and Dan Coakley (1 RBI) and Bob Hyland had singles as the Engineers could only muster 3 hits in this contest.

In the second game the WPI offensive slump continued as they fell 5-2. Dave Scala took the loss in this one. Hickey had two singles, Hyland an RBI single, and



Jack Holtaman delivers the pitch!

— Jeff Winick.

On Thursday the Engineers took it on the chin again with a 15-9 loss to Suffolk, although Dave McCarthy pitched well in relief.

But perhaps the worst day of the week was Saturday. The Engineers got snubbed by MIT, twice.

Dave Scala another RBI single as again the team could only muster 7 hits.

The tough week drops the WPI record to 7-12 while MIT jumps to 6-7.

Next week WPI plays Tuesday at Tufts and Friday at home against Mass. Maritime. Come and give support to the team!



WPI Lac in first place in Pilgrim league.

— Jeff Winick.

## SENIORS!

The deadline has been extended . . .

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE  
TO GO TO  
THE SENIOR DINNER DANCE  
OR  
THE CAPE COD OVERNIGHT.

Buy your tickets or make your  
reservations this week in Da-  
niel's Hall Ticket Booth from  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## ... Letter to CAP Chairman

(continued from page 1)

courses in my four years here.

The combination of the two rules would put much more pressure on the students at this school than there is now. Today if you fail a course, but still think you know the material, you can proceed on in the sequence. You will now be forced to re-take a course that you may have failed by 1 point just to get the credit. There will also be a rush of students to professors' offices at the ends of each term, arguing about their grades, and possibly an increase in the number of petitions to the Registrar about grades.

There was an editorial in *The Evening Gazette* of Saturday, April 21, commenting on the grade change plan. A quote from this editorial is reflective of my views. "The goal of producing 'technological humanists' is a sound one. A move to narrow, highly technical 'job training' alone would be a mistake. College officials must determine how much the WPI

Plan is tied to its marking system and what the effect of a return to traditional grades might be."

I am not pleased with the idea of replacing the Competency examination with the qualifying examination. I did not like the Comp when I took it, but when I passed mine (on the first try), I felt that I had learned something in my four years here. The qualifying exam would be just another final in students' eyes. After the passing of that exam, there is no incentive to specialize in an area of your major by taking advanced courses. A student would probably take what he or she needs to complete his distribution requirements and for his or her MQP. The Competency exam is designed to test your ability to apply your knowledge to an entry-level industry problem. It is not the solution, but the method and justification, that is the important part. Interviewers often ask about the Comp to find

out how good your intellectual skills are. The Competency catches the people who have slid by in their classes for 3-and-1/2 years. I do not think the qualifying exam will do the same.

Changing the grades on the Competency or qualifying examination to a pass-fail basis is a poor idea. For the qualifying examination, the idea might be acceptable, but not for a Competency. This would encourage people not to do their best work on the exam, but merely pass. There would be no incentive for the superior students to show their command of their majors.

I am one of the first people from my hometown of Oceanside, New York, to attend WPI. It is a long drive for me to go home. I did not come here because of the location. I was sent a catalogue based on my SAT scores and major, and came here because of the ideas in the Plan. The Plan changes would make WPI

seem very much like any other four year school. People from outside New England would have less incentive to come here. If I were planning to go to college now, I would not apply here, but rather to RPI, which is more known in the New York area.

In the past two years, CAP has run through several changes to the WPI Plan without asking for student or parent input. If it were not for teachers that have mentioned the changes to classes I have been in, and *Newspeak* articles, I would not have known about these changes.

I have no regrets about attending WPI, but I believe the school that I am graduating from on May 19, 1984, is very different than the one I entered in September, 1980. I wonder if these proposed changes will affect the value of my degree in the future.

— Leslie Arlene Schur

## ... Money Not Plan Real Issue

(continued from page 1)

WPI will employ to maintain the quality of its program (some people would say to survive) through the coming decline in the college age population due to the end of the "baby boom."

This decision is already late. The decline in the number of admissions applications has already begun, according to administrators. Since any changes in degree requirements enacted now will not go into effect until the fall of 1985, the planning effort is at least two years behind the beginning of the population decline.

There are really two viable options for WPI's survival strategy through the difficult, competitive fifteen years ahead. Either option could be chosen without changing the Institute's statement of goals, but the selection could demand changes in the degree requirements. The current debate over degree requirement changes is actually a debate over the strategy for survival over the next fifteen years.

The first strategy is to position the Institute to compete head-to-head for every student against MIT, Harvard, Brown, Yale, RPI, Clarkson, Stevens, UMass, UConn, and others, all of which will be feeling the

effects of the end of the baby boom and all of which will be posturing for survival as well. This strategy requires that WPI become a center of real engineering excellence. It requires a strong graduate program, strong research programs in almost all departments, and lots of money.

Money! We have finally reached something truly significant! You don't understand the problem if you haven't found the money. We need students to get tuition money, but no school gets rich on tuition. The real money comes from research contracts, gifts, and grants. You can't get them without good facilities, faculty, and graduate-level research. And money attracts people, facilities, and attention. Attention and facilities attract students — which attracts more money. Get it?

How much money are we talking about? Well, one estimate indicates that to bring WPI's campus-wide computing support up to the state-of-the-art (not the cutting edge, mind you, just to the current state-of-the-art) would require a five-year, \$25-million program at minimum. And that's only for computing support.

But in order to begin this lucrative circle, the faculty needs time to develop research interests. Translation: the faculty needs to recover the time they have been investing in competency exams and projects for research initiation. Thus, the faculty-intensive degree requirements need to be changed.

WPI's reputation is good, but it is mostly limited to New England, and the most severe decline in the college age population is expected in New England. If WPI competes head-to-head with the other, more highly-visible schools in New England, there is the risk that WPI's main student clientele would be the fallout from the big-name schools nearby. And as I pointed out last week, the more nurturing, less competitive intellectual environment we now enjoy would have to be destroyed in order to enhance WPI's competitive position.

I did say there was another possible survival strategy, didn't I? Hard to shift concentration when all that money is being waved around.

The other strategy requires WPI to enhance and capitalize on the unique aspects of our current program. Specifically, the Sufficiency, the IQP, and the unique flexibility of WPI's academic program would be strengthened and vigorously marketed to students in and beyond New England.

There would be some significant side effects of choosing this alternative direction. First, WPI would attract students with interests beyond engineering. (Some people interpret this as "poorer quality engineering students". They may be right.) Second, WPI would have to undergo a critical examination of its program which would surely be painful. While some outstanding project work has been performed here, it is not clear that the projects, particularly the IQP, could survive a critical study intact. We could be criticized for not publishing our best work and further criticized for tolerating our worst work. But since we are already late in planning for the crisis, we might not have time to perform this background study. Third, uniqueness is not necessarily attractive to faculty members who want to leave their career options open. ("Don't lay your career on the doorstep of Boynton Hall.") There is a sense that experience in a unique system weighs against faculty seeking to move to a school with a traditional system. (This does not bother me, but I am a computer scientist — talk to someone in a field that is not a "hot topic".)

The advantages of this approach are not financially insignificant in comparison to the first approach. WPI would be able to appeal to a broader student pool — not just engineers but also students with liberal arts interests and students who are undecided about a major. This broader appeal could ease the effect of the declining student population. Second, under this approach the nice term "technological humanist" would still be clearly supported by the academic program. Third, the interdisciplinary, social-technological thrust of the school would be strengthened. (Is this good news to the engineering departments?)

Why do I tell you all of this? Because the time for debate is short, the decisions are important, and I'd like to hear informed opinions from faculty and students before I vote. The issues are difficult, and whatever happens this week in the special faculty meeting (including NOT voting), the faculty is taking a big gamble.

What makes this really important is that if we make the wrong decision it will be the late 1990s before we could recover enough to correct it. That's when the "baby boomerang" (children of the baby boomers) will begin reaching college age. And this decision will probably be made in the last weeks of the last term of the academic year with all of two weeks' notice.

(continued on page 7)

## Proposed Student Body Constitution

(continued from page 5)

be removed from office.

4. Students may also propose amendments and referenda by a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the current voting community.

### ARTICLE VII

Ratification of the Constitution shall be by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes

cast in an election following a period of two weeks during which this Constitution will be presented and explained in an open Executive Council meeting and a school newspaper article. This Constitution shall be effective immediately upon ratification and shall supersede all others

# Sophomores.

## It's still not too late to take Army ROTC.

Because there's a two-year Army ROTC program, in case you missed taking ROTC in your first two years of college. You'll have to work to catch up, during the summer before your junior year. But in two years you'll earn about \$3,200, more than half of which is tax free. Then you'll earn an officer's commission at the same time you earn a college degree. But mail the coupon now. Because by the time you're a junior, it'll be too late.

Army ROTC  
(INSERT YOUR ADDRESS)  
Please send me more information about the Army ROTC Two-Year Program.

Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

College Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Army ROTC Two-Year Program**  
Be all you can be.

**OR CONTACT: CAPTAIN BOB HARLOW**  
at Harrington Auditorium, Room 28A, WPI  
793-5466 or 752-7209

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Tuesday, May 1

UPDATE LECTURE, Newell Hall, 4:10 p.m.  
CONCERT, WPI Stage Band, Jazz Ensemble, Brass Choir and Wind Ensemble, Alden Hall, 8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 2

SOFTBALL vs. Fitchburg State, Home, 4:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 3

TENNIS vs. American International College, Home, 3:00 p.m.

### Friday, May 4

BASEBALL vs. Mass. Maritime, 3:00 p.m.  
DANCE DAZE, Alumni Gym, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Admission: \$2.50.

### Saturday, May 5

MEN'S CREW, New Englands.  
SOFTBALL (DH) vs. Emmanuel, 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday, May 6

SUNDAY MASS, Alden Hall, 11:00 a.m.  
WPI MEN'S CHORUS ALUMNI CONCERT, Alden Hall, 5:30 p.m.

### Monday, May 7

SOFTBALL vs. Roger Williams, 4:00 p.m.  
DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MAY CANDIDATES.

### Tuesday, May 8

GRADUATION REHEARSAL, Harrington Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

### ...Notes on the CAP

(continued from page 3)

the fact that the students and faculty who sign are against any changes being voted in on this short notice, without enough discussion and debate. This petition **does not**, in any way, cast a vote for

or against the changes, it merely will show a need for further thought and rationalization on the Plan changes as they stand now.

### ...Metro-To-Go

(continued from page 4)

— lucky kid — and could also do something the size of a fraternity party, just for instance), but they aren't cheap for somebody throwing a smaller party.  
The DJ (if we can call him that) had a

lot of fun playing for us and said he hoped he would be able to play here again sometime. Maybe next time in Harrington?

# ★★★ CLASSIFIEDS ★★★

TECH-HIGHLAND 3-bedroom apartments. Spacious; Appliances, Gas Heat, 5 min. to WPI; Shea Realty, 755-2996.

NEED CASH? Earn \$500 plus each school year, 2-4 (flexible) hours per week placing and filling posters on campus. Serious workers only; we give recommendations. Call now for summer and next fall. 1-800-243-6679.

TYPING — Reasonable rates; 755-8551, Mrs. Cahill.

APARTMENT FOR RENT — Available June 1, for 3 people. Mostly furnished; includes stove, refrigerator, heat, hot water. Secure, clean, practically on campus. Call around supper time, 799-9833.

FOR RENT — 3 and 5 room apartments off Highland Street — Clean, quiet, 835-2806.

WANTED — Full-time for summer months and part-time during school year. Carpenter with the skills to do remodeling work. For more information call 835-2806.

FOR SALE — 1975 VW convertible. Excellent condition. Call 835-2806.

Wash the bathroom floor.

HEY, SIG EPS — Figure out what 2 plus 2 is and win a prize!

APARTMENT FOR SUMMER — will accommodate up to 4 people. Unfurnished. \$110/mo. per person. Contact Box 1830 or call Ray, Tim, or Dan at 791-1532.

FOUND — Gold Cross pen near the side entrance of Riley. Engraved. Please contact Pam, WPI Box 760.

HEY O, do you still think that 'scuzzy' is just out of this world? Why don't you dump the wife and find out. — DBGJ

TO A SILLY SOPHOMORE — So you thought you'd be rid of me this year huh? Nice try, but I've got 14 reasons to stick around! Multiple Majors.

1976 MG MIDGET. New top, new clutch, new alternator, battery, etc. Must sell. \$1600 or B.O. Call Jack 753-8520.

Que Pasa Mok: Have you ever been TOO WASTED? What is the definition of a TRUE PARTY MACHINE?

To The Lover I Can Never Have: Mr. Charisma, I hear you almost Tied . . . Better Luck Next Year . . .

TYPING — Will type IQP's, MQP's, term papers, etc. Fast service, \$1.00 per page. Call Bev after 5 p.m. at 752-6185.

Rat-infested floors.

TO MULTIPLE MAJORS — Sorry, I don't think I am whom you think I am. — A Silly Sophomore.

**Move Yourself,  
All Your Stuff,  
And Save, Too!**

**It's as easy as renting a Ryder truck, one way.**

Compare costs before you make plans for moving at the end of the semester.

If you're 18 or older and have a valid driver's license, you can use a Ryder truck, rent-it-here, leave-it-there. Load up your stereo, 10-speed, clothes: everything. You'll still have room, no doubt, for one or two friends with their things to share the cost.

Compare that to the price of a plane ticket. Or even a bus. Plus shipping.

Rent a newer truck from the best-maintained, most dependable fleet in the world — Ryder. The best truck money can rent.

STUDENT DISCOUNT COUPON  
RYDER TRUCK RENTAL, INC.

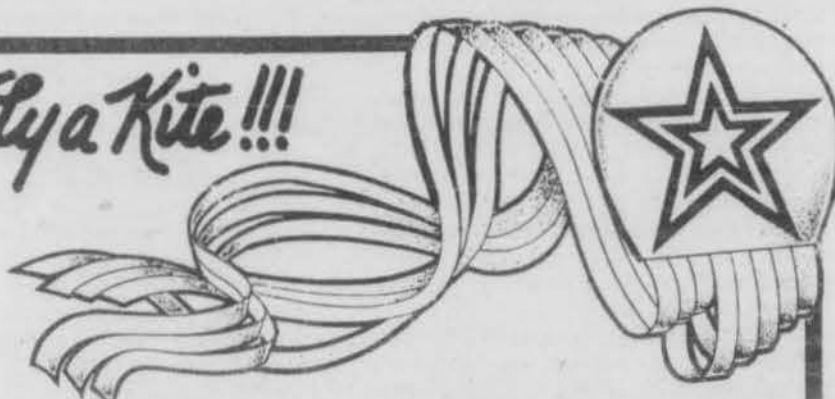
The holder of this coupon is entitled to a 15% discount on any one way rental of a Ryder truck. Present this coupon to any Ryder location in New England and save even more.

One coupon redeemable per transaction. Not valid with other promotions. Call (617) 832-6301 or your local dealer for information.

Renters Signature

Expires 8/30/84

**Go Fly a Kite!!!**



Spring is finally here!!! Celebrate with a splash of color in that blue sky! Kites ordinary and extraordinary. 3.00-300.00

**CLASSIC TOY SHOP**

Across from Marriott at Lincoln Sq.  
51 Union St. • Worc. • 755-3629 • 10-5:30 M-Sat.