



# THE RUNKLE STANDARD



MARCH 15, 1985

Vol. 1, Issue 1

ABSOLUTELY FREE

## OUR FIRST ISSUE

## DEANS MEET WITH HOUSE OVER KEYSER ISSUE

by Mike Siemers

This is the first issue of the Runkle Standard Roar. At this point we have set no limit as to the scope of our coverage. Our one objective is to cover the major issues affecting Senior House. We shall make an attempt to present more than one side of an issue, but we see complete objectivity as an impossible goal.

Contributions and letters from our readers are welcome. If you wish to write to our paper you can tack your letters to the Runkle 5th corkboard or send them to:

Letters  
c/o M. Siemers  
Runkle 503

### MARGARET SAVES SHOWER HEADS

by Mark Adler

To begin this experiment, place two identical rats in identically furnished living quarters. Well, almost identical; one of the bathrooms will have a restricted flow type showerhead, the other a grossly inefficient high-pressure showerhead. Which rat will live longer, have more children and keep itself cleaner? Which one will complain about higher utility costs? Which one will complain no matter what?

Fortunately, I do not need to carry out this experiment to find the answers. They come straight from my personal experiences. A few years ago, one of the showers in my home decided to stop working. This was easily fixed, we thought. Just replace it with a new control and showerhead. What I didn't know at the time was that laws in Wisconsin and some other states required water-conserving faucets. This was quite a pain in the neck for my family, as we got about a third as much water as we were used to.

The answers to the other questions are easy as well. It seems like no one complains as much about money as MIT students. And we should! Tuition is up again, books cost too much, food costs TDM, housing costs TFM, etc. Then, what happens when someone tries to save the students money by making the showers more efficient? The rats are so angry that they try to bite the very hand that feeds them...their own housemasters.

I don't quite understand what happened. First I thought people were joking...I heard things like, "let's leave the water on," "it's all a plot," "let's have a shower party," and so on. I am guilty too, I suppose. I joined in the fun and I'm sure we all had a good laugh. But then I realized some people were taking the whole thing seriously. Too seriously. Consider these flames: "sit in the Keyser's shower," "pelt them with eggs and fruit" (or something like that) on the Runkle 4th flame sheet.

Come on, kids, grow up! Don't you even know they're on your side? Think! Who put up the petition asking for signatures of those wishing to keep the old showerheads? Who personal spoke to the only people could help us? Who found out

On Thursday, March 7, deans Shirley McBay and Robert Sherwood of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs met with the housemasters and some students of Senior House to discuss recent charges of misconduct on the part of the housemasters, Jay and Margaret Keyser.

A little background: For quite some time now a group of Senior House residents has felt that the Keyzers have acted improperly as housemasters. In the recent past some of these students, led by Pam Keller and Caroline Richardson, has to tried change the situation by informing the Dean's office and other Senior House residents of their views. In two housecomms over the past month they have stated various problems they see with the Keyzers. These statements were accompanied by accusations of misconduct in specific incidents with Senior House residents. The meeting was then called so that the deans could hear the accusations and the Keyser's response.

The first issue discussed at the meeting was whether or not its proceedings should be taped. Shirley McBay thought that taping showed distrust on the part of Pam and Caroline, who advocated it. Pam noted that statements made by the various actors have been doubted in the past and claimed, "Without a tape ... there is no way that productive discussion can go on." Senior House President Steve Lentz, whose goal appeared to be to ruffle as few feathers as possible, observed that "Note taking has worked in the past," and the issue was closed.

Steve then asked those making the accusations to begin. Pam's opening statement claimed that the most important problem affecting students' relations with housemasters and tutors is that the students don't trust the housemasters and that this mistrust runs up and the hierarchy so that students mistrust tutors, housemasters, and the Dean's office. She stated that this was not paranoia on the part of students because the housemasters encouraged "narcking" by tutors. The question of narcking became the predominant issue at the meeting.

Jay replied that he and Margaret do sometimes ask the tutors to keep an eye on someone who might have a drug problem, but he did not consider this to be "narcking." Margaret's reply was more forceful. She stated that: f Mike Vargas, the previous Holman tutor, never narcked. She went on to say "There has never been a question of narcking," and that tutors are there to help students with their problems. She also denied ever having accused Mike Thomas and Eric Martin of having drug den at last year's Steer Roast. This was one of the allegations made about her.

Margaret then asked the three tutors in the room, Dave Chen, Luc Chouinard and Arjun Mangaldas, if they have ever been asked to narc. They all said no, they hadn't been asked to narc.

Jay later stated his view of drug use by Senior House residents use. "I'm not interested in students going to prison; I'm interested in them staying alive." Jay said that he was worried about drugs because people can hurt or hurt themselves.

A number of specific allegations of misconduct by the Keyzers towards various students were raised. In each case either those accusing them were unable to produce necessary evidence or else they were proved to be wrong by one of the deans.

After failing to establish any specific point of wrongdoing the point was made that people feel that the Keyzers will act against people who they know to use drugs and that this will drive people away from communications with the housemasters. Caroline said that these people don't appreciate policing. As of yet, however, there has been no clear evidence of policing. Steve Lentz

characterized the situation accurately when he said "The policing is in your head." He went on to say that this perception problem was the only valid point brought up and that it can be fixed.

Predictions that Margaret would not be able to hold up under pressure proved to be false. She defended herself skillfully.

Nothing that was said at the meeting put even a dint in the confidence Deans McBay and Sherwood have in the Keyzers. Towards the end of the meeting McBay said "I'm 100 percent behind the Keyzers; I think about it very carefully."

At this point Pam accused the deans method of handling the entire issue as harassment under their own definition. She and Caroline seemed to feel that the deans would support the Keyzers no matter what information was brought to their attention. "The dean's office is absolutely intransigent," said Pam at a post-meeting flame session on Runkle first. "They have no commitment to true student involvement," she added.

There were some complaints about the way Steve ran the meeting. Pam complained about not being informed of its agenda in advance. She felt that Steve's opinion from the beginning was that those making the accusations had some misunderstandings which would cleared up once they had a chance to talk with the Keyzers.

There were also some complaints about the restricted and unadvertised nature of the meeting. Many residents have developed an interest in this issue

# THE RUNKLE STANDARD ROAR

Chief Editor ..... Mike Siemers  
Associate Editor.....Col. J.S. Mosby  
Blatantly Slanted News.....Mark Adler  
Dear Jenny.....Jenny Hyman  
Film Reviews.....Jay Keyser  
Fast Cars and Rock & Roll...Scott Braithwaite

## EDITORIALS

ONLY THOSE ITEMS DESIGNATED AS EDITORIALS ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE RUNKLE STANDARD ROAR'S EDITORIAL BOARD.

### Spring Comes to Senior House

You may have noticed a little box at the desk asking for your opinion on pornography at Steer Roast. Once again the house is going through the motions of what has become a rite of spring over the past few years. Trees and flowers come into bloom, students make plans to go to Florida, the baseball season begins and Senior House has a vote on pornography. Every year there is great flaming over this issue and every year those dirty movies get an overwhelming vote of confidence from the house. It is extremely unlikely that this year will be any different.

We believe this issue has been dead for a long time. The Keyzers are fighting a hopelessly losing battle which serves no goal except to increase the ranks of those who seek to replace them. They should admit defeat. It would save all of us a lot of time and effort.

### WHITHER SENIOR HOUSE?

For the past four years there has been a growing malaise about the house. The house may not be a sinking ship but it seems clear that some of its best features are becoming things of the past. Senior House is at a critical juncture now and without some kind of concerted effort there be nothing but more of the same.

Senior House is a unique dormitory. Its small size, relatively high level of political concern, streamlined government and the fair number of actively involved students makes it possible for this house to take major important steps quickly.

Recent years have not been kind to the house. The administration has become more restrictive of student behavior, external agencies have acted in manners which appeared hostile to the house, apathy among residents grew, the number of house events declined, and the number of active and outgoing residents dropped way off.

Senior House finds itself in semi-isolation from the rest of the campus. Part of this is due to the ever present East-

West dormitory tensions, part from a well cultivated distaste for West Campus conformity and a parallel pride in living in the dorm for those different from the norm. Similarly through fear, disgust and ignorance, residents of dorms beyond East Campus shun Senior House events.

As a result, SH parties are invariably poorly attended, many faculty and staff hold a very bad view of the house, and in general the house is connected in the public mind with excessive drug use and acts of stupidity. While the house maintains positive relationships with some individuals and offices, our standing with many other MIT organs is poor.

Continual undersubscription and declining resident morale, and a stagnating social scene (empty courtyard in Spring '84) suggests that the atmosphere that made the house unique is in serious decline.

The house has already taken what, it seems clear, most other dorms on this campus would have difficulty doing, with a series of meetings where various aspects of this dismal situation were discussed and a few initial steps toward rectifying this major problem were begun. Much more remains; to make any progress is going to require some very organized, well-designed and executed work by a considerable number of people in the house. One single event or individual step is not going to magically restore the dorm.

The fortunes of SH are directly tied to the success in attracting enough interesting students, since empty rooms are invariably filled with closet students while active freshmen, many of whom would make ideal Senior House residents, go to dorms which put on a better show. Rush Week must be better planned, with events that will draw people to the dorm. Less than half the freshmen even toured SH during last Rush Week. Active means of bringing students to the East Side of campus are needed (perhaps including actually sending out groups of residents to buttonhole people) and then there must be ongoing activities which will convince them to stay long enough to get to know the house. Further, there ought to be some kind of organized tracking of freshmen. It may seem heavy handed to organize

### SHOWER HEADS [CONT. FROM PAGE 1]

that "No one had any idea anybody wanted to keep the old showerheads."? Who solved the problem less than three days after it came up?

Yes, we all know the answer. Margaret Keyser is probably the only person who could have done the job so swiftly. She correctly predicted the probable reaction of house residents and verified that feeling. She knew exactly whom to speak to, just before he left on vacation. She is well-known and respected by other housemasters, housing office people, and other important people. It's a good thing she acted while the rats were still whimpering among themselves. It's too bad some people just don't appreciate how much she does for us.

residents to ensure that every visitor is approached and made to feel a part of the events, but presently many leave with a very cold impression of the house.

If the consensus is that the house has become unprecedently boring, then real measures ought to be taken to reserve this. House activities are limited to Steer Roast, the Friday courtyard and the occasional party. In the past residents had an annual dinner at the seaside and more frequent lunches. There are any number of events which would bring more life to the house, maybe even bring Ware and Crafts residents into contact.

Rather than pursuing isolation, the house would be a more dynamic place if non-residents could be lured out for house events and parties. (including Steer Roast Sat. eve) Senior House events would be better attended in general if some careful thought went into publicity.

The house could make a number of friends with something as simple as a faculty wine/cheese event. (which is theoretically at least already in the works) The persons who show up for such events are invariably great conversationalists who are truly interested in meeting students outside the classroom.

Senior House is full of creative people and there are countless steps the house could take. Finances are scarce but many of these ideas are not that expensive and elsewhere money could be raised specifically for an event, say through ticket sales. What is needed ultimately is direction and energy to move the towards facing squarely the problems that confront it.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Classified Ads

At the present time classified ads are free in the Runkle Standard Roar.

BLUE STOOL, an up-and-coming Senior House band, is looking for a bassist and a keyboardist to play bluesy, psuedo-psychedelic late 60's music and originals. Contact Skip, Atk.105,6604

NOVA - there is no substitute. \$750, sunroof included. Contact Andy, 6616

DRUM HEAD - 13 or 14 inch, we're not sure. Call Larry Singer, 6593, R503A

AMPLIFIER - pre-CBS blackface Fender Bassman amplifier, 60 watts, for sale. Skip Regan Atk. 105, 6604

# BREAKFAST CLUB FIRST RATE

by Jay Keyser

John Hughes' "The Breakfast Club" is first-rate cinema. However, I am over forty, the age group for whom I believe the film was made, and I cannot be held responsible for any dissatisfaction incurred by Senior House residents who might be encouraged by this review to give the movie a try. I can give some advice, though. Buy your tickets at the Quarter Century Club office in Wing A of Building 20 so that, even if you do not like this film, it will only have set you back \$2.50.

The film itself is a modern morality play. That is, it is not peopled by characters but by types and - also like a morality play - it has a message. The types - a Brain, a Prom Queen, a Jock, a Flake and a Criminal - come together in the affluent suburbs of Chicago. Each of them has done something wrong, though we do not what it is. (Part of the tension in the film is in finding out what the transgressions were.) They all have a common enemy in the form of the High School Principal.

Like any good play, the film is divided into three acts, though, of course, no curtain goes up or down. In the first act the Types, who have come together mostly for the first time, view one another with anger, animosity, fear and hatred that one has come to expect of one peer group toward another in our fragmented society. Enter the Principal and instead of one another, they now have a common enemy to face. The Principal is contemptuous of the young and hatred of his charges is palpable.

The second act is devoted to their coming together as a group in defeating the Principal, at least symbolically. This act of solidarity creates a fragile community and, in the last act, the students begin to look at one another - perhaps for the first time - as human beings rather than templates. They learn that there is in each of them something of the other.

I mentioned earlier that the film has a message. That message is put in the form of a question from the Brain. He asks if they will talk to one another on Monday the way they have learned to in detention. The Prom Queen answers. "Do you want the truth? No." I overheard one young person in the audience say, when it was over, "That's the way it was. That is exactly the way it was."

At the beginning I suggested that this film was for those over forty. I think so for two reasons. First, the title of the film would only make sense to those who grew up during the early days of radio. There was then an insipid radio program devoted to folksy chit-chat for husbands and wives, though mostly the latter. It was called "Don McNeil's Breakfast Club" The ironic intent of the title is clear. We have travelled a very long way from one "Breakfast Club" to the other. The metamorphosis has not been entirely a salutary one.

The second reason why this film is for those over forty is that we are the ones who need to know how it is for our children. The film is an impressive attempt to fill the gap between one "Breakfast Club" and another.

# MEETING [CONT FROM 1]

in the last few weeks and would have liked to attend. Pam felt that this resulted in a meeting where a large majority of the students were supportive of the Keyzers, something which she does not feel is true of the house in general. Steve replied that the decision was not entirely his and that a larger meeting would have been "even more hysterical than it was."

As the meeting ended there was some vague talk of having housemaster evaluations similar to tutor evaluations.

# NEW UNDERGROUND OK

by Scott Braithwaite

During the summer of 1969, the Velvet Underground was working on tracks to be used for their fourth album. Their record company, MGM/Verve, never released this album and later claimed that they lost the master recordings. Last summer while MGM was digitally remastering the previous three Velvet Underground albums for re-release, they "accidentally discovered the lost masters and assembled them into a new album called "V.U." which was released concurrently with the other three.

It is easy to be skeptical of anything which is "rediscovered"; since albums of "rediscovered" material are usually collections of material rejected from previous albums which record companies release to exploit a surge in the artist's popularity. Such motives aren't applicable to the perennially obscure Velvet Underground however, since they were destined to never be popular from the beginning.

The beginning occurred in 1967 when, with the help of Andy Warhol, the "discoverer" of the group, the Velvet Underground released "The Velvet Underground and Nico", a refreshingly amazing album. With lyrics about the sordid life and dark fantasies of a perverted drug addict hanging around the seemier sides of New York City, and hyperactively moody music (sometimes gentle, sometimes fierce and dominated by scorching feedback, and often just hypnotically repetitive) to back them, no radio station would chance offending their listeners by exposing them to such decadent melodic and moral practices. Their follow-up, "White Light, White Heat," is even less restrained; it sounds like Lou Reed, the group's leader, was finally going off the deep end. When he wasn't telling wonderfully warped stories or chanting obscene phrases over and over again, he was doing truly sadistic things to his guitar.

After this album, the Velvet Underground took a turn for the less aurally violent. This prompted classical avant-garde electronic violinist and bassist John Cale to leave in disgust, but he was soon replaced by the much more Doug Yule. With this lineup they made two

more albums (not including "V.U.") before disbanding in 1970. After such a radical change, the Velvet Underground did gain some commercial potential but radio programmers were too scared away by the two previous albums to notice. Their music became more tuneful and refined, but no less interesting - Lou Reed never wrote ordinary songs. Their final album, "Loaded," is a truly fantastic album from this period. It is also the record "V.U." is most comparable to, since they made the ill-fated fourth album immediately before "Loaded" and both are similar in style and concept.

Although "V.U." is a very good album, it pales in comparison to "Loaded." "Loaded" is made up of better, well crafted, songs. "Ocean" and "One of These Days" are the only songs from "V.U." as good as anything on it. Most songs are relatively lackluster or substandard, most particularly "Foggy Notion" and "I'm Sticking With You." The former seems to go on forever and is only redeemed by some semi-interesting guitar work. In the latter we get to hear drummer Maureen

**RATING SCHEME**  
 10 - MIND BLOWING  
 9 - EXCELLENT  
 ↓  
 5 - DECENT  
 ↓  
 1 - BAD  
 0 - TRULY PATHETIC

**"V.U." RATES A 7**

Tucker sing solo accompanied by a piano. Her voice was never heard on any other Velvet Underground song, save one, and you can quickly tell why; she sounds like a little girl singing on stage in her first school play - shrill and off-key. Lou Reed never won any on-key singing awards either, but he at least comes pretty close most of the time and once in a while even hits it just right. Poo Maureen has no such luck but fortunately Lou and company soon come in and harmonize with her, diluting her voice. Certain songs on "V.U." were also recorded by Lou Reed during his subsequent solo career ("Stephanie Says", "Lisa Says" and "Andy's Chest"), but are so different from the later versions that it is interesting to hear the Velvet's interpretation. "V.U." itself is generally interesting and has all the good qualities of other Velvet Underground albums, except to a lesser degree.

I would recommend "V.U." to anyone who already owns the other Velvet Underground albums, but I think the other albums, especially "The Velvet Underground and Nico" and "Loaded", are more worthwhile and more valuable, and thus preferable purchases for those unfamiliar with the group.

## ADVICE ON HOW TO SAVE YOUR LIFE

Anybody who is in danger of being called up as a member of the Volkasturm should read the following advice very carefully. To follow these instructions carefully may make the difference between life and death.

1. If it is at all possible, avoid being called up by not registering, changing your address, or going underground among friends and sympathizers.
2. If you are called up and can't avoid it, obey the call-up.
3. Do not resist when they drive you into action. Seek cover in the best protected place you can find and wait.
4. Then, when the Allies attack, put your hands above your head and surrender. You will have done no harm to the Allies. They will do nothing to you.

Only those who follow this advice in every detail will survive in the great battle of material in the West. Volkasturm captured in action will be treated strictly according to the Geneva Convention and the rules of war and will be returned to their homes at the end of hostilities.



SENIOR HOUSE

That's the funnest suggestion I've heard all night... you've had too many martinis

Senior House holds the double distinction of being the oldest and the smallest member of the campus dormitory system. This environment of tradition and close-knit association and cooperation generates an intense loyalty in the residents of Senior

House. The freshman's first encounter with the soul of Senior House was a week of midgets, football games, and treats to Boston (with due homage to the shrine of the Carnival). The class soon accustomed itself to the atmosphere of cordial independence

encouraged by a well-planned social calendar, an established contact with the Institute and the community, a rugged participation in athletics, and a fervent devotion to the bull session.

Be it hereby resolved, that in order to improve the house's image during Rush Week and beyond, a strict dress code, as exhibited here, has been established. Residents will curtail personal habits which fail to reflect.....

Dear JENNY

Dear Jenny,

I'm a freshman at a prestigious New England technical school and I was wondering if you could help me. Well, during orientation week I was at L-shaped dorm on the east side of the campus at a party. First of all, I was amazed at how many people were drinking alcohol. I was just standing there when this football player shoved a tube down my throat and forced me to swallow so much beer with a funnel! Then this really weird band came on. Their music was so noisy that everyone began to jump up and down and slam into each other. They pulled me in and my body moved in so many directions I didn't think I'd ever walk again. By this time I was feeling really dizzy so I decided to lie down. I went in some door and walked up 4 floors. I had just lied down when all of a sudden about ten people were crawling all over me, touching and feeling me, sucking on my toes, all the while making soft cooing noises. It was so gross it took all the strength I had to get up and scramble down the stairs. On the second floor this creep squirted me with a fire extinguisher. Then I ran outside and blew chunks over this wall into some rhododendron, and passed out on a stone bench. I woke up the next morning and for some bizarre reason I felt compelled to live there I listed it first on my preference card. Do you think I'll get in? Do you think I made the right decision? Pleass help.

Mixed-up Freshman

Dear MUF,

Yes. You'll get used to it. And don't forget to tell your housemasters what a good time you had

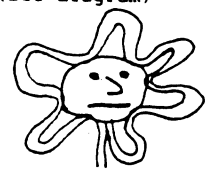
Dear Jenny,

How big should "it" be?

-the men from Runkle 5th

Dear Men,

It should be so long that if you folded around your head you'd look like a huge daisy. (see diagram)



Also, it should be so wide that when you go to cross your legs, you kneee yourself in the face.

