

TECH TALK TECH TALK TECH TALK TECH TALK

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

April 1, 1971



H. Leonard "Chip" Smith (left) of Draper Labs and Cyril Tourtellotte of the Laboratory for Nuclear Science were among the petitioners who asked that Ashdown be kept open. Photo by Margaret Foote.

VERDICT ON ASHDOWN

The dining hall in Ashdown House will stay open at least for one more year and compulsory commons for students will be dropped in all dining halls.

These are two parts of a campus-wide experiment in the dining system to begin next September. Additionally, the renovated Burton-Conner House will not reopen its dining room; its residents will eat in other dining halls. Ashdown residents will pay a new fee, part of which will help its dining hall remain more nearly solvent.

The decision to keep Ashdown's dining hall open was largely the result of broad community reaction to the announcement that it would be closed. Not only graduate students but also faculty, staff and employees petitioned and called the Dining Ser-

vice urging that Ashdown be kept open.

In general the dining halls have been troubled by reduced business volume, and the problem is particularly pronounced at Ashdown. There are fewer people on campus this year and more people are bringing their lunches from home.

People must plan to eat at Ashdown, whereas a secretary shopping in the Coop, for example, can simply take the elevator to Lobdell for lunch. If the heavy response to the announced closing of Ashdown turns into more customers, the dining hall will remain in operation beyond next year's experiment.

SMOOTH SAILING AHEAD

Now that the ice on the Charles River has melted, the sailing pavilion is looking forward to its reopening today.

All winter long sailing master Gerald Reed, '34, and a small crew from the Nautical Association have been busy puttying cracks, mending lines, and painting and varnishing the 56 boats at the pavilion. Each boat took about one day's work. The dock and the pavilion's supporting structure, both seriously damaged by the winter ice, also required repairs and general face-lifting.

Now anyone in the community can take a revitalized dinghy out for a sail. After passing a swimming test at the swimming pool, a student can buy a sailing card for \$6. The fee for a faculty member, employee, or staff member is \$15, and for an alumnus, \$30. The card entitles its holder to

sail from today until November 15, seven days a week from 9 a.m. to sundown. Rates for comparable privileges at commercial establishments are typically six to eight dollars for an hour of sailboat rental.

In addition, the Nautical Association Shore School offers a self-paced series of sailing courses Mondays and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. at the pavilion. Three basic blocks of knowledge are covered, all offered simultaneously each time the class meets. A beginning sailor can therefore proceed at his own pace in learning the essentials of sailing.

THE 900 WHO DIDN'T

Applications for admission to the class of 1975 were way down this year.

Last year about 4,700 applications came to the Admissions Office. About 900 high school seniors didn't apply this year who might have been expected to on the basis of trends over the past few years.

To find out why, the Admissions Office has called on a number of high school guidance counselors around the country. Feeling the educational pulse of parents and students has produced several possible reasons for the 20% drop in applications. The Admissions Office is weighing this evidence and comparing its own hypotheses.

"[A student worries that] there is no job security in science," reports a counselor in a Seattle suburb. "Look how many engineers were laid off at the 747 plant." There is a definite downturn in engineering in-

terest, although it is likely an outgrowth of the national economic situation that has curbed government funding of technology. A few counselors think their students are beginning to prefer social disciplines, but this may be simply because they see projects like the SST scuttled, and note the unemployment rate along Route 128.

A popular explanation for the fall-off in applications is that the bigger state schools have improved to the point where they offer almost as good an undergraduate education as do private, "prestige" schools like MIT. Indeed, state universities are going against the grain of the national trend, of which MIT is an example. While almost all private schools had fewer applications this spring, state schools had more from in-state. At the same time, many of the best known state universities report decreases in out-of-state applicants.

General economic and financial concerns are closely related to the trend toward public institutions, including two-year colleges. A counselor says, "increased programs and offerings... are now available at home for less cash." Parents are feeling the effects of tight money and unemployment. Students are wondering whether the difference between professional and vocational employment is worth the extra cost and effort of four to eight years of rigorous academics.

Finally, a Midwestern counselor says, "Fewer of our students are interested in prestige colleges because of the turmoil, anti-American feelings, and heavy drug use that predominate.

"We are growing very reluctant to have our students exposed to the kind of influence they are receiving at these schools."

CITIZEN FEEDBACK

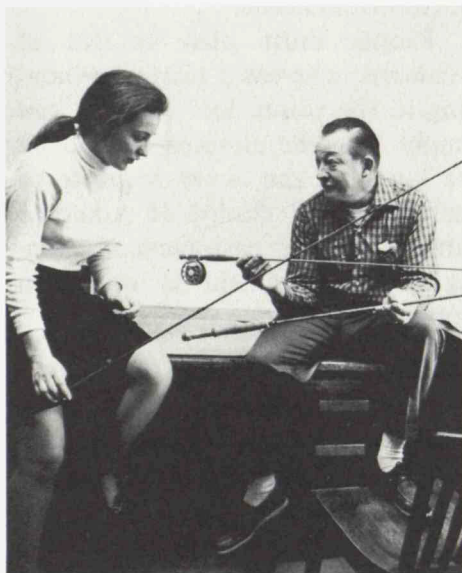
The citizens of the Commonwealth will have better communication with their state government if an experiment now underway in the Governor's office works out.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a \$40,000

grant to a group of MIT researchers for development of a citizen feedback system. The research group includes Professors John D. C. Little (Operations Research Center) and Thomas B. Sheridan (Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Chandler H. Stevens (Management senior lecturer), Peter Tropp (Management research associate) and several students.

Basically what they are doing is studying the flow of communication through the Governor's office. They are discovering who responds to a question or complaint, how complete the response is and how quickly it is generated. The emphasis, according to Dr. Stevens, is on "helping the Governor hear what people are saying."

As the system develops, the researchers hope to build a data base that could be helpful to the new cabinet level positions created by the government reorganization plan.



Irvin Puffer shows Margaret Macvicar of the physics faculty some of his home-made flyrods. Photo by Margaret Foote.

PUFFER'S POLES

Using bamboo from the Gulf of Tonkin, glue, thread, and ingenuity, Irvin Puffer, engineering assistant in the Department of Metallurgy, builds his own fly rods in his spare time.

Starting with eight-foot strips of bamboo, Puffer can produce a basic rod in five or six hours. The fine work on the guides for the line, the seat or holder for the reel, and the finishing touches on the rod's appearance are completed over many

odd hours. The finished product is a personalized item.

One of Puffer's big problems is getting good bamboo. "The best wood comes from the Gulf of Tonkin, and it's all been here in this country since before the Korean War," he says. After all these years, it is becoming hard to find.

He and his wife often take their rods up to northern New Hampshire and Nova Scotia to fish for brook trout rather than those in stocked streams. "They're not the biggest trout," Puffer says, "but they're the most fun to fish for."

SON OF CACR

Here we go again.

Remember last summer's Clean Air Car Race? Some 250 students and 40 unconventional vehicles spent a hectic week of testing and festivities at MIT before embarking on a transcontinental rally.

Last week plans were announced for another intercollegiate clean car contest. Called the Urban Vehicle Design Competition (UVDC), CACR's successor calls for student development of cars specifically built for city driving.

The idea for the urban car competition developed slowly. In response to the interest of industry and government officials, the old CACR committee held a series of seminars and planning sessions during the fall semester. After the basic objectives and format for the event had been outlined, a new student committee was formed to plan and stage the competition.

The Institute is not directly sponsoring the event, but it is supplying office space and technical support for the new committee.

The UVDC goal is an automobile that is not only a low polluter, but also one that will reduce other hazards of driving on congested city streets. This time there will be no coast-to-coast race. The contest will be held in one or more cities where entrants can be tested against real urban driving conditions.

The competition is scheduled to take place in the summer of 1972, but the committee hopes to hold symposia this summer to allow enter-

ing teams to exchange information. Experts in the fields of automotive design and emission control will also be invited.

Teams entering the competition must be composed of full-time students from accredited educational institutions. They may receive support from industry, but the students themselves must design and build the vehicles.

Two MIT students are presently members of the committee. Robert Michaud, a senior in civil engineering, is the chairman and Vincent Darago, a senior in aeronautics and astronautics, is in charge of finances.

Over 40 college groups have already expressed interest and enthusiasm to the UVDC committee. It may seem early, but get ready—son of CACR is on its way.

LOOKING AT DAY CARE

Over the past year many members of the community have expressed a need for child day care services. An informal group of students, employees, staff and faculty members have formed the Day Care Work Group to look into ways of serving the small children of MIT parents.

As a first step toward fulfilling the need for day care, the Day Care Work Group and the Planning Office are sponsoring a series of information sessions and discussion groups during the week of April 12.

One member of the group stresses the importance of complete representation by all sectors of the community. "We want to talk to anyone who is even remotely connected with MIT and is interested in day care at the Institute. We need their ideas and their support to demonstrate the need for such a program."

The organizers hope that Day Care Week will help build support for day care at MIT, gather data on what is needed and who needs it, and exchange information and ideas.

If you have any questions about Day Care Week, call Sue Udin, Ext. 7817 or 484-4783, or Christina Jansen, Ext. 3300.

AWARD TO BATTERMAN

Professor Charles Batterman, swimming coach at MIT for the past 15 years, recently received the first Distinguished Coach Award from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America. The award was established this year to recognize outstanding achievements by member coaches. Professor Batterman coaches both the swimming team and the water polo team and is a noted authority on diving techniques. His book, *The Techniques of Springboard Diving*, was published by the MIT Press in 1968.

HERE AND THERE

—The Cambridge Business and Professional Women's Club, mainly composed of women who work at the Institute, has established the Olive Libitz Scholarship as a memorial to a long-time staff member of the Accounting Office and former member of the Club. The scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded for the first time this year to a girl graduating from Cambridge High and Latin School.

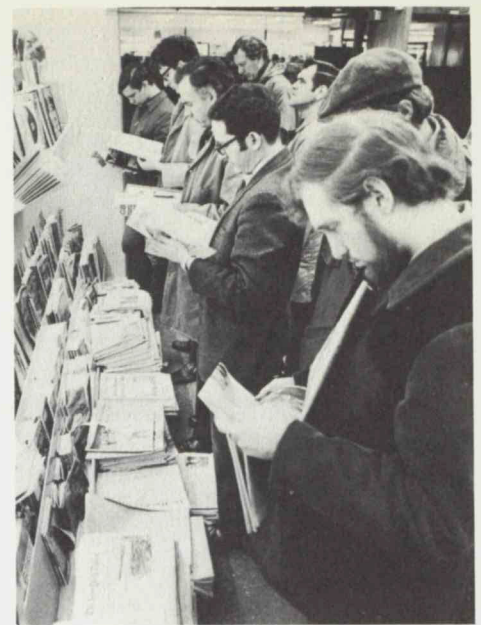
—Lincoln Laboratory's blood drive last week was also very successful. The Lexington Red Cross collected 275 pints during the two-day drive.

—At last week's meeting of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee, the other members presented a class ring to Gregory Smith, '30, in recognition of his tireless and continuing efforts as chairman of the committee. MIT's class ring, familiarly known as the brass rat, was designed in the fall of 1929 but few, if any, members of the Class of 1930 have one—they couldn't afford one.

COOL COOP, COLD COKES

Stuffy atmosphere, warm cokes, and an obstacle course of magazine browsers in the Coop Lobby Shop will soon be a thing of the past.

During the Spring vacation (March 29–April 3) workmen will rip up the store's ceiling and install a \$7,000 air conditioner. When the shop reopens April 4, a new soft drink case will hold enough sodas to let them all stay cold. The Lobby



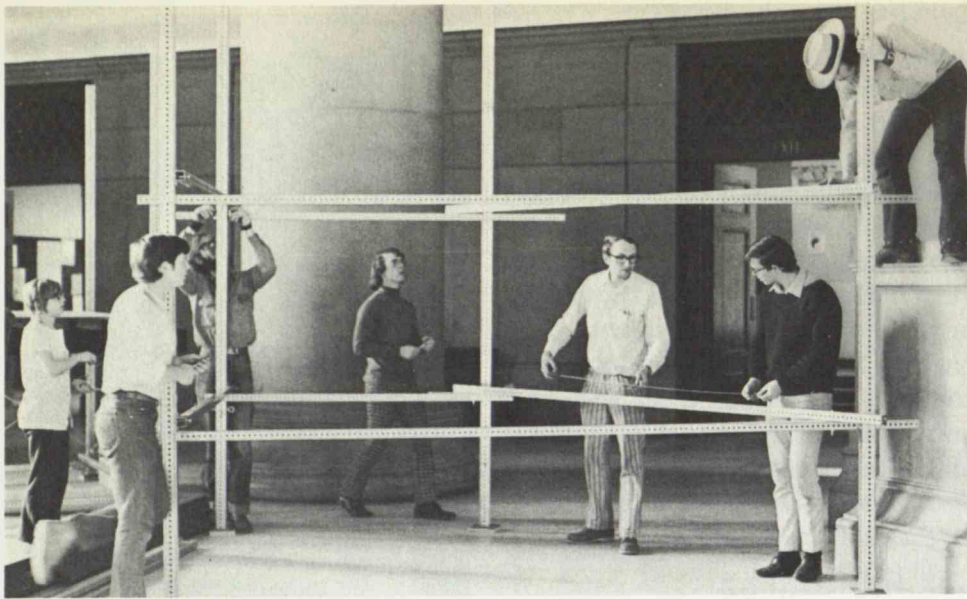
Magazine browsers and long lines at the cashier will be less of a problem after the Coop Lobby Shop is renovated. Photo by Margaret Foote.

Shop sells so much soda now that customers buy cans as fast as they are put in the refrigerators. The cans never have a chance to get cold.

A week or so later, the central island will undergo a revamping, and be replaced by a new checkout counter. The magazine stand will already be in the rear of the store. The improvements should go a long way toward improving the Lobby Shop's service. Meanwhile, while major improvements are going on, customers can buy cigarettes, candy, and newspapers at the stationery desk in the main Coop store.

TOMORROW ON TV

Among Flip Wilson's guests on the special, *The Record Makers*, will be three MIT alumni: the youngest person to win a Ph.D., Harvey Friedman, who received his doctorate in mathematics from MIT in 1967; and astronauts Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., Sc.D., '63, the second man to walk on the moon, and David R. Scott, S.M., '62, who will be the first man to drive a vehicle on the moon. The show will be aired tomorrow night (April 2) at 7:30 on Channel 4.



Spring Lobby '71 begins to take shape. The first three tiers of this Building 7 Lobby lounge area will have their carpets, benches and tables in about a week. Soon there will be more tiers, reaching up to the second floor. When the students in Architecture get tired of how the structure looks, they can just take it apart and rearrange it or put it up somewhere else in the lobby. Photo by Margaret Foote.

FOR SALE, ETC.

Well water-pump, in wrking cond, exc for camp or reserve pump, best offer. x4788.
 Darling puppies, blk w/brwn & wht markings, free if give them TLC. Steve, x1545 or 492-2523.
 Drk brwn lady's suede coat, mouton lining & trim, sz 10-12, \$220 new, hardly worn, best offer over \$100. Call 787-5554 evgs.
 VW rims (2), 5 bolt pattern, \$5. Tom, x564 Draper 7.
 Convert sofa, v gd cond, gray, 36" wide, \$100. Gary, x6862.
 Panasonic compact AM/FM stereo, S6 999D, 8 mos old, list \$250, \$150 or reas offer. Jay Benesch, x3161.
 Pressure cooker, 4 qt, \$8; Marx walking horse, \$6; elec curlers, \$6; Walka-Bouncer, \$4, all lk new. Call 266-0882.
 Purebred AKC blk labrador retriever puppies (7 males), ready 1st wk Apr, \$100. Arrowsmith, x4441 (leave message).
 Wedding gwn, sz 9-10. Kay, x419 Draper 7.
 Outboard motor, 4.8hp, exc cond, asking \$125. Jack, x4301 or Joseph, 277-7052 evgs.
 Sperti sun lamp, \$10. x5659.
 Household items, buy sep or make deal for all: iron, ironing board & basket, \$3; AM & FM radio, \$5; 4 chrs, \$4; study dsk & chr, \$15; draperies, \$4, etc. Call x5716 or 491-1476 evgs.
 Rudge Sports 26" man's bike, 3 spd, exc cond. Paul Crump, x417 Draper 7.
 Lady's burnt orange winter coat, sz 12, fox trim, exc cond, \$40; lady's watch, orig \$125, sell \$15. Linda, x6214.
 RCA 17" tv, \$35. Call 876-4160.
 Falcon rims (2), 14", \$7; or wl swp for 2 Tempest rims, 14". Ellis, x5704 Linc.
 Auto parts '63 Chevy L6; drs, wndsh, bmprs, cltch, G-box, strtr, carb, \$10ea; hood, trunk, fndrs, \$5ea; eng blk \$20; etc. Dave, x192 Draper 7.
 Paramount bowling balls, (duck & candlepin), engraving, gd prices. x2180 or x2360.
 Liv rm furn, reas; also, drapes, lamps & misc. Arlene, x6010.
 Lawn mower, 18" reel type w/grass catcher, 3hp, \$12. Rolf, x4407.
 Sailboat, 16', dacron sails, xtra equip, trailer, \$1100 or best. Call 944-2138.
 Kittens, 2 wht, 2 orange, 1 gray, 8 wks, free to gd homes; 1 fem purebred siamese, avail 11 wks. Len or Suzy, x7295.
 Diamond engagement ring, appraised value \$500, wl sell for \$350. Call 864-4590 evgs.
 Singer vacuum cleaner, \$20; 10 gal tropical fish aquarium, fully equip, \$15. Irwin, x7654 Linc or 862-3952.
 Tech flying club membership. Mike, x7378 Linc or 275-8960 evgs.
 Jason binoculars, 7X50, new \$75, asking \$50, lk new. Ernest Day, x7519.
 Candles, all sizes, \$1.50 & up. Betty, x3757 or 864-5476 evgs.
 Polaris ADF, 1968, 2 band, aircraft or marine, \$125. John Hitchcock, x5189.

Quiet, gentle, pretty fem calico cat, nds home, wl have kittens in about 3 wks. Judith, x6766 or 262-2638.
 Bolex reg 8 mm movie camera w/2 lenses, \$30. M. Steinmetz, x7618 Linc.
 Panasonic stereo, w/AM-FM radio, \$90; Olivetti typwrt \$50; dsk & chr \$8; mattress & sprng \$20; bkshlvs; luggage; maxi coat; rcdrds; etc.; lving country. Drop by 20 Trowbridge St, Camb.
 Sailboat, fibergls, 14', w/trailer, sails, cover & xtras. Ken Randolph, x4586.
 Sngl bed, \$20. Rich, x4433 or 868-8589.
 Phaeton, 36 Cord, complete & orig, 1500 mi since major eng overhaul. \$7000. Hardy Prince, x5528 Linc.
 There are a few memberships avail in the olympic sz cooperative swim pool in Lexington. Irwin Shapiro 862-3728.
 '58 GMC bus (was 60 passenger - now camper), lights, ht, util, running water, etc, \$1000. Les Jacobson, 731-6468.
 '61 International Metro walk-in van convert to camper, beautifully painted, gd cond, \$550 firm. Call 354-6079.
 '62 VW sedan, reliable, 1 owner, best offer. H. Canning, x206 Linc.
 '62 Ford sta wgn, country sedan, gd cond, \$150. Bill, x7308 Linc or 365-2471 evgs.
 '64 Jeep, 4 wheel dr, recent eng wrk, \$750. Larry Kornfield, x376 Draper 7.
 '64 VW, gd mech cond, \$450 or best. Fred, x6813 or 864-3170.
 '64 Lincoln, exc cond, all pwr, 2 new tires, \$595. x205 Linc or 923-4077 evgs.
 '64 Plymouth, 2 dr, stndrd, 6 cyl, R&H, \$250 or best. Moshe, x7174.
 '64 Cadillac de Ville, 4 dr, sedan, full pwr, w/air cond, all new tires, exc running cond, \$995. x7803 Linc or 583-7909 evgs.
 '65 Chevy Impala, 4 dr, hrdtop, auto, pwr st & brks, gd mech cond, \$665. Tony, x4156.
 '65 Pontiac Le Mans, 2 dr, hrdtop, R, auto, 6 cyl, buckets, console, pwr st, 2 snows, gd cond, \$750 or best. x3777 or 734-8643.
 '66 Mustang, stndrd, 6 cyl, gd cond, \$375. John A., x4108.
 '66 VW 1300, gd cond, new tires, 42K, must sell, \$650. Bernard, x5915 or 627-6230 evgs.
 '67 Mustang fastbck, 390 eng, all new tires & batt, tape deck, w/4 spkrs, stndrd, 4 spd. Jim or Pamela, x2657 or 443-2250.
 '67 Pontiac Tempest, 6 cyl, auto, pwr st, R&H, gd cond, \$600. Call 523-2437 evgs.
 '68 Bonneville convert, all powered, w/built in stereo, approx 50K, best offer. Call 646-4539 evgs.
 '68 Plymouth Road Runner, 383 cu in, 4 spd, stndrd, pwr st, sure grip, \$1400. Ray, x5719 Linc.
 '68 Baracuda fastbck, V-8, 318hp, auto, pwr st, R, gd cond, \$1500. Call x2213 or 969-2342 days or 244-3422 evgs.
 Lrg studio w/balcony, 17th floor, airport & harbor view, close to MGH, 1 yr 4 mos sublease, avail 6/1, \$220/mo. Heidi, x6281.
 Brighton, mod, 2BR apt, sublet 4/15-9/15, on bus line to Camb, \$180. Ruth, x2477.

Brighton, lrg 1BR apt, on bus line, summer sublet, June through Aug, option for fall rental, \$185/mo. x2668 or 731-6143 evgs.
 Brookline, 7 rms, 4 BR, 1 1/2 B, htd, rear porch, prking, elec kit, 5 min from MIT, \$325, avail 8/1. Call 277-5840 evgs.
 Camb apt, 872 Mass Ae, 1 BR, 1 1/2 B, mod, air cond avail 5/26, nr T, shops, \$220/mo. Call 547-2340.
 Carlisle, 3 acre lot, pastureland, high ground. 862-0014.
 Lincoln carriage house on wooded lot, abutting conservation land, w/6 rm apt, all util, distinc architecture, unlim possibilities, Call owner, 259-9659.
 Westgate apt sublet, 6/1-8/31, mod, furn, effici- ciency, sngl or couple, rent negotiable. Call 491-7174.
 Bridgeton, Me, spacious chalet for rent for summer, inc Labor Day, mt setting, marv hiking & swim, 2 sundecks, 2B, frplce, all conven, canoe. Call 358-7884.
 Moose Pond, Me, yr round lodge, swim, fish, ride, tennis, golf, sleeps 20, 12 BR, 3B, wk/mo/wkend rental. x3468.
 Ogunquit Beach by the Sea, Me, town house apt, 4 furn rms, full B, priv yard w/barbecue, block from beach, May thru Oct, rent by wk or mo. Call 485-7543 (Marlboro).
 N Conway, NH, mt chalet for rent, 5/15 - 10/1, 4BR, 1 1/2B, playrm, nr golf & lake, \$1200. Call x4351 or 267-4266 evgs.

WANTED & MISC.

Wl do typing. Julie, x2360.
 Suitable vehicle for long summer family journey, must be in exc cond. x1785 or 868-0516 evgs.
 Fem rmmate to share furn 2 BR apt, own rm, pool, conven loc in Waltham, min from 128, immed occup. Jeannie, x7544 Linc or 899-3443 evgs.
 Wl play softball, avail 4/15 to 9/15 (noon time), much exper, any position. Joe McGee, x206 Draper 7.
 Men's 10 spd racing bike. Albert, 247-9674 evgs. Full sz crib, drop sides, gd cond. Call 749-0007 evgs.
 Julliard grad wl give piano instructions. Evelyn Siegal, 484-3610.
 O'Day Tempest cruising sloop. Vic Maslov, x7711.
 Unfurn apt, 3 or 4 rms, in Camb area, June '71 to June '72, for vis prof w/no children, about \$250/mo. Write R.A. Moss, 162B Cedar Lane, Highland Park, NJ 08904.
 Wl do thesis typing, reports, manuscripts, etc. x6936.
 Wl sublet 2BR apt, 6/18 - 8/31, around \$150, respectable party. x7666.
 Man's bicycle. Dee, x2491.
 V.F.O. for 6 meter rig. Chuck, x4025.
 MISSING: Simpson voltmeter mod 262 property No. LLIR 1912. Guy, x5597 Linc.
 Collapsible stroller; child's rocker; child's tbl & chrs. Call 484-5357.
 Foam rubber mattress 3/4 full or queen, cheap. Jim, x4358.
 Pr shortie skis. Irv, x3843 or 864-5415.
 Usable rocking chr. Earl Smith. x6691.
 Port typwrt in exc cond. x2667 or 354-7231.