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VOLUME 95, NUMBER 8

MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1975

IPS to terminate Multics?

By Lucy Everett

Multics, MIT's computer time-sharing system, may be terminated because of funding problems, according to Robert Scott, director of the MIT Information Processing Services.

According to Scott, Multics faces a possible loss of up to \$500,000 this year. In the past it has operated at a small deficit. This year, however, Multics cost the Information Processing Center (IPC) \$2.5 million, yet only brought in a revenue of \$1.7 million. The IPC must try

to lower this deficit, and one real possibility, Scott said, is the elimination of Multics.

He noted that less than half of the users of Multics are actually MIT affiliates, yet MIT continues to absorb the loss from Multics.

Most of the loss which has been generated, Scott said, can be attributed to higher salaries and to rising paper and telephone costs. Next year, if it is still being operated, Multics may face an even larger loss because some large users of the system,

such as the Architecture Department's Overlap project, have indicated that they will be cutting back on their usage of the system. The IPC's revenues come from charging users; unless they can increase the number of users they have, they will not be able to achieve their goal — breaking even.

The issue of removing Multics, Scott emphasized, is "unrelated to its technical excellence." If cost allows, he said, "all of us would like to keep Multics." The system has many excellent features, Scott said, but "its real strength is in systems development, while the trend now is toward systems use." Funds for research and development are short right now, Scott said, and the IBM system which the IPC operates is more application oriented than Multics, so it is of more use for "real world" problems. Three-fourths of IPC users use the IBM system, Scott said.

Joseph Dehn '75, chairman of the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB), told *The Tech* that he considers the termination of Multics "a poor thing to do because Multics is a valuable service to the MIT community." Dehn said that Multics is a more interesting system to use, easier for the new user to understand, and more available to individual students and small research projects.

Dehn agreed that the essential
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Jensen, Shockley hypotheses refuted

By John Sallay

IQ tests are not a true reflection of intelligence because they are culturally biased, Richard Lewontin, Professor of Biology at Harvard University, told a Technology and Culture seminar last Thursday.

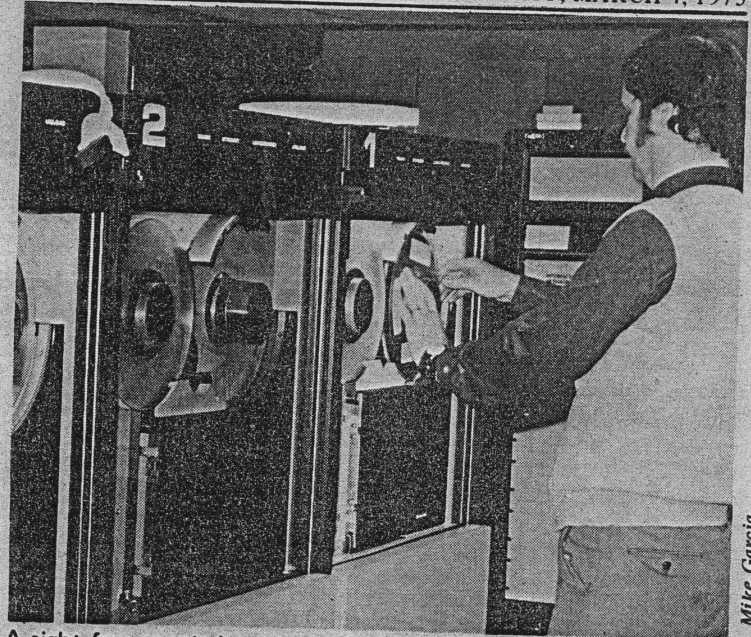
Lewontin has been a very vocal opponent of the views held by Arthur Jensen of the University of California at Berkley, and William Shockley of Stanford University. Lewontin contends that the results of IQ tests cannot be linked with the intelligence a person has inherited.

According to Lewontin, there currently exists an "ideological war between those who have and those who have not." Historically, the weapons whose "beauty is that they are

ed out that the manifestation of inheritance can be changed. According to Lewontin, "It is the phenotype, the outward manifestation that we are interested in. What we inherit is the potential." He likened this potential to the size of an imaginary "bucket" that everyone in society is equipped with. Those with the larger buckets, he said, catch more of the "raindrops of opportunity" and have a better chance to succeed.

Lewontin continued to say that although Jensen holds that the lack of good jobs held by blacks is just a manifestation of their inferior genes, that much of the evidence on which this and other claims are based is

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A sight few people have seen: An operator mounts a tape on one of the Multics tape drives on the third floor of Building 39, the inner sanctum where IPC's computers reside.

Blood drive beginning; pledges down by 50%

By Gerald Radack

Because of poor publicity, MIT's blood drive, which is due to start tomorrow, is far behind in the number of registration forms received, Blood Drive Chairman Marian Tomusiak '77 told *The Tech*.

As of Saturday, only 792 forms had been received, Tomusiak said, adding that "the normal number is 900 more than that." She noted that if this trend continues, MIT may be in danger of losing its "very good" level of coverage.

MIT community members and their immediate families are currently covered for unlimited blood. "Twenty per cent of the community has to contribute to get full coverage," Tomusiak said. Last year, 3800 pints were given in the four blood drives which are held annually. This year, only 2036 pints have been donated so far. Tomusiak estimated that a drop in donations of 500 pints or more would result in a lowering of coverage.



Mike Garcia

Multics is endangered due to budgetary problems.

IPS considers ending Multics

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problem is lack of business for Multics. However, if the system is eliminated, he said, large users will be able to move to outside systems, while the small users SIPB is concerned with will have fewer options. Presently, "over 99 per cent" of SIPB computation funds must be used for IPC machines, eliminating the option of using departmental systems.

"The ideal solution from SIPB's point of view would be for more people to use Multics," Dehn said.

Scott expressed confidence that the IPC could continue to satisfy users' needs. He said that the IBM system could be expanded to accommodate many users, while it might be possible to buy outside services for those who really need to use Multics. Outside services would be more

expensive to the individual, he said, because MIT would no longer be absorbing part of the cost. Any change in systems would be gradual enough that users could easily move their projects, Scott said.

Ways to cut costs and increase usage of Multics are being sought, Scott said. When an estimate of costs for next year is complete, the Deans and Chancellor must decide whether to continue Multics., he continued, noting that the budgeting will be a matter of priorities. The deficit from the Multics system, he said, represents "a lot of money that could be spent on salaries, scholarships, or keeping dormitory costs down."

ULSP offers experience for students in pre-law

By John Sallay

The Urban Legal Studies Program (ULSP), which aids students leaning toward law, is again offering a summer program to give MIT and Wellesley students an opportunity to work in law related fields.

ULSP was created five years ago by a group of students who could not find this type of internship program elsewhere. It is still run by students who, with the help of administrators in the Preprofessional Advising and Education office, arrange positions for these students

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