

# YES, YOU CAN BUILD YOUR OWN ATOMIC BOMB

MAKE YOUR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WORTHWHILE! AN MIT PROFESSOR,  
QUOTED IN THE REAL PAPER, SAYS "ALL THE EXPERTISE NEEDED COULD  
BE OBTAINED AT MIT, AND MATERIALS ARE NOT THAT CLOSELY GUARDED."  
IMAGINE THE POWER THAT YOU COULD HAVE. YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE  
TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE FOLLOWING MIT PROGRAM IS  
RECOMENDED FOR THOSE WHO WANT THEIR OWN BOMB:

## UNDERGRADUATE

PHYSICS: 8.03, 8.04

MATHEMATICS: 18.03, 18.075, 18.076

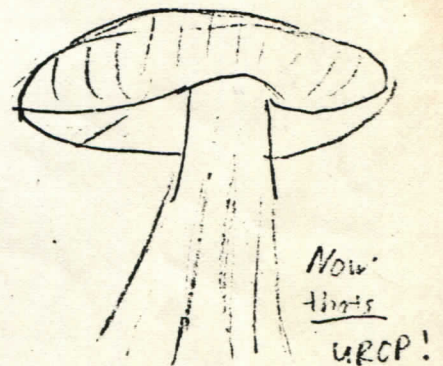
CHEMISTRY: 5.61

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING: 2.01, 2.201, 2.50, 2.403

## GRADUATE

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING: 22.02, 22.111, 22.211, 22.71, 22.72J

AND FINALLY 22.90 (SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING)





# Backyard Bomb Coordinating Committee

## Constitution

Name shall be Backyard Bomb CoOrdinating Committee

Purpose: Finding a suitable backyard and coordinating its use.  
We believe that Nuclear Engineering should be a rewarding hobby,  
not an esoteric science.

Direction: The committee shall work towards completion of the  
"Brooklyn Project".

Officers: The two chief officers are High Warlord and Material  
Procurer, and they shall maintain the balance of power and project  
security.

All other members of the committee shall be known as Technicians,  
and they shall carry their project badges at all times.

Finances: At this stage of the game, the committee shall raise  
money by non-coercive or non-detectable means, as well as any  
donations that come our way.

Meetings: These will be held irregularly in undisclosed locations.  
All informers will be finalized, and removed from the committee  
roster.

Qualification for membership: Any MIT student or approximation  
of same who wants to attain wealth and power by unorthodox  
methods is welcome.

David Holladay

William Anderson

ANT  
Kern & Hardy

Joseph M. A.

Peter Schrey

James A. B.

Richard B. B.

John B. B.

Leonard M. B.

Rachel Terman

John G. Arison A

Samuel S. Mela

Louis Blair

Jane Butler

Don M. M.

W. K.

(No help with  
finances!)

Charles L. G.



ANNOUNCING



# I.A.P. ATOMIC BOMB DESIGN



ENTRY WILL BE JUDGED ON:

- 1) MINIMIZE MATERIALS
- 2) MAXIMIZE YIELD
- 3) CLEANLINESS (NO DIRTY BOMBS)
- 4) SIMPLICITY ( COULD BE FABRICATED IN THE BURTON HOBBY SHOP)
- 5) DETONABILITY (QUICK WARMUP, CONTROLLED TIMING)
- 6) **MOBILITY**

CONTEST OPEN TO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH MIT

ANYONE FROM THE A.E.C. OR ITS FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED

DETAILED PLANS OR MODELS ACCEPTED (NO WORKING MODELS, PLEASE)

LOCATION OF A PLACE TO HAND IN ENTRIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

PRIZE: WINNER WILL HEAD THE 'BROOKLYN PROJECT'

SEE  
MAY 1969  
ESQUIRE



# A-bomb contest planned

By Barb Moore

An anonymous group known only as the "Backyard Bomb Coordinating Committee" has announced plans to sponsor an IAP Atomic Bomb Design Contest, open to groups or individuals affiliated with MIT. The chairman, who is also the only member of the committee, denied any seriousness in the contest.

The first poster for the Backyard Bomb Committee announced that any student at MIT has at his or her disposal the "expertise needed" to construct an A-bomb. An MIT professor quoted in *The Real Paper*,

stated that, as well as having the knowledge available, the "materials are not that closely guarded."

The poster suggested a program for students to follow in order to make an A-bomb, recommending undergraduate and graduate courses that would be needed. It suggested that students with the skill and materials to construct such a bomb could "influence government policy."

The second poster to appear was the announcement of the IAP contest. The poster outlined the judging factors, which consist of "minimizing materials,

maximizing yield, cleanliness, simplicity, detonability, and mobility." An additional announcement of the place to hand in entries was promised. Hand written in the corner of the poster was a reference to the May 1969 issue of *Esquire*, which contains an article pertaining to the loose guarding and poor security involved in radioactive or dangerous explosives.

One nuclear engineering undergraduate confirmed the validity of the claim made in the poster. He stated that a simple A-bomb could be constructed with some expensive lab equipment, which is available at MIT. His instructions for making a bomb are: Start with about 1.25 critical masses of U235, which would be the approximate size of a grapefruit. This should be machined into two hemispheres, each consisting of one-half the material.

A thick shell of TNT is then built around each hemisphere. A blasting cap should be placed in the rear center of each, while keeping the U235 separated with some neutron absorbing material. Lead would be appropriate as the separation substance. Two wires must then be led from each blasting cap to a detonator. The lead is then removed, hopefully by remote control.

It should be remembered that removing the lead by hand would cause the immediate destruction of the person detonating the bomb. When the lead is removed, the U235 slams together, thus causing the desired atomic explosion.

It should also be noticed, added Storm Kauffman of *The Tech*, that as large an amount of unshielded radioactive U235 as would be involved in making an atomic bomb would not only cause the precipitate demise of the possessor of the material, but also likely sterilize his entire living group.

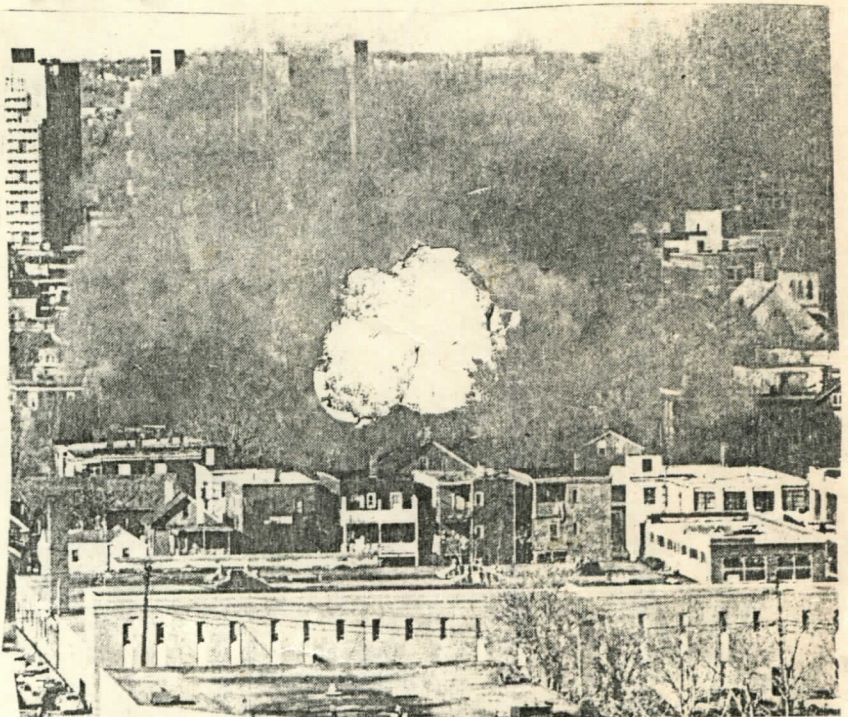
When contacted for comment, the committee explained that his motivation for the contest came from acute boredom with studying for exams. After reading the *Esquire* article, he decided that the contest would be an appropriate and plausible idea. He also stated that Institute professors have predictably denied the possibility, as well as the course of suggested study.

The reaction of the Institute authorities is understandable, in light of a similar prank several years ago in which some MIT students secured and assembled a nearly complete atomic missile from surplus parts. The Federal Government was not amused. In order to avoid further contact of this sort with the Government, the Institute would like to discourage further such assembly.

The present Backyard Bomb Committee would also like to avoid taping and telephone tapping, which he seems to feel his contest might merit. His closing remark was, "It's not me who's paranoid, it's everybody else..." which trailed off into maniacal laughter, said one observer.

Phil Thatcher of the A.E.C. and **THE TECH** announce that all entries to the contest should be sent to The Tech. It is hoped that a better bomb could be designed than the one described in the article. A neutron accelerator bomb would give everyone plenty of time to escape.

Of course, the Backyard Bomb Committee officially denies any rumors that we will be testing any designs on campus.



ANNOUNCING

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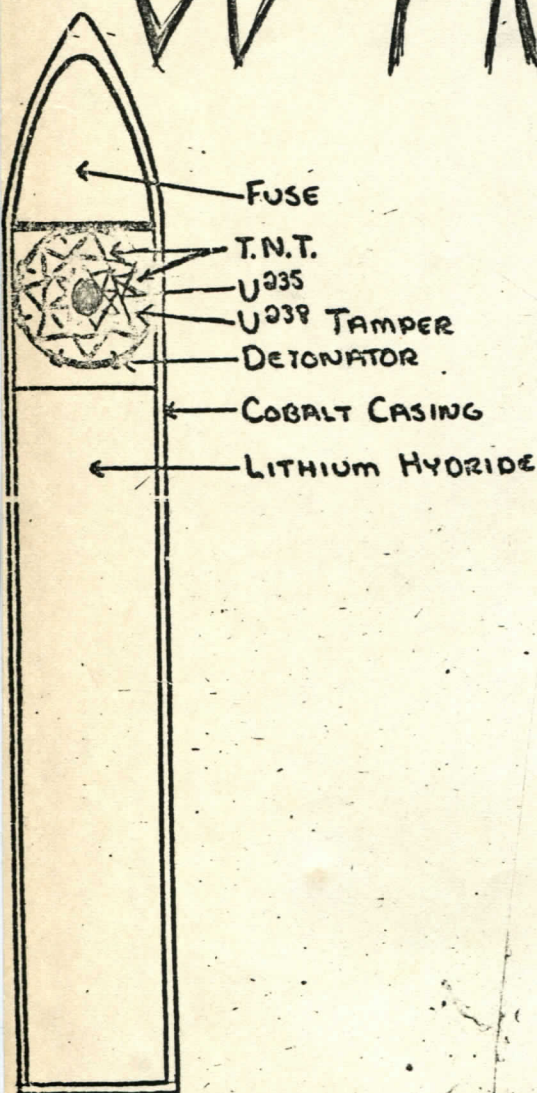


LAP

# ATOMIC BOMB

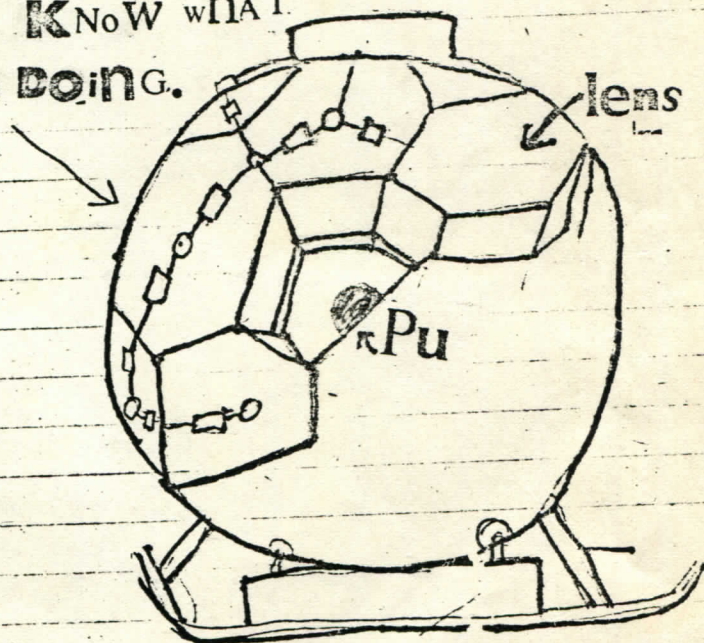
## DESIGN CONTEST

# WINNERS



I've got two bird cages of  
PLUTONIUM and if you don't  
RELEASE ALL your PRISONERS and Leave  
Vietnam, I'll BLOW up NEW YORK CITY.

we KNOW what  
were DOING.



Will the MacGregor Liberation Front and the Celestial Fireworks Company have an organizational meeting of the "Brooklyn Project" at 8pm Thursday in 20 Chimneys. The Agenda will include plans for the procurement of materials and maintaing project security.

Backyard Bomb Coordinating Committee



