

COLLEGIAN PERSONALITY:

LEONARD SHAEVEL

by Doug Heller

What type of man would you expect to drive a jet-propelled Fiat, with "somadar?" Only Physics instructor, M. Leonard Shaevel, would dream up such a device to illustrate Physics principles to his classes.

Shaevel was born and raised in the Boston area, and graduated from Brookline High School outside of Boston. He attended Temple University of Philadelphia as a pre-law major and "essentially flunked out" after his second semester. Shaevel remarked, "I wasn't ready for college at the time. It was great--one party after another, but that wasn't what I was there for." He then, "spent a year in Florida, kicking around," and decided to join the service.

During his three years in the service, Shaevel spent two terms in training, "getting involved with guided missiles and radar simulation systems." He spent his remaining year at the U.S. Army-Air Defense School in Texas, which was "my first experience at teaching."

After coming out of the service, he went into industry for about three years with International Telephone and Telegraph. "Covering an East Coast area," he serviced missile site for I.T.T. Shaevel quit his job after seeing a co-worker with fifteen years experience get fired. He was convinced, "There was no future without a college degree."

He returned to the Boston area to go back to school. Shaevel found out that, "Once you flunk out it isn't too easy to get back in."

He was turned down at four schools in the Boston area

because of his previous academic record. At Lowell Technical Institute he, literally, "begged to get in." He told them, "After a few years in the service and industry it wasn't the same kid that flunked out of Temple." Shaevel told the Dean of Students at Lowell that if he did not make the Dean's list his first semester, they could ask him to leave. After an agreement was typed up and signed, Shaevel was admitted. "I don't think I ever worked harder in all my life, because I was now ready to go back to school and I made it!"

Starting as an electrical engineering major, Shaevel moved to Physics and graduated with a B.S. and M.S. in Physics from Lowell.

When he first came here, Shaevel said, "It was perfect--a fantastic atmosphere." There was, "No where near the bureaucracy of today. The paperwork was one-tenth of what it is today. There weren't as many administrative levels as today, and I think we were better off because of it. What we should do now is weed out some of the administrative levels."

Music has always been Shaevel's favorite pastime. He plays the piano frequently and did a good part of financing himself through school by, "playing at bar rooms at one in the morning." There was many a night that I would sit at a piano in a bar at Lowell with a Physics book on the bench beside me."

Shaevel is "not research oriented," and has no plans to go on with his education.



Gym delays

Continued from page 11

David made other comments relating to the Physical Education Building and its use. "I am hoping to have the Building dedicated in mid-May and expecting that at that time we will have it decently equipped, so we can bring the world in to see it."

"I hope we can go on to a steady diet of major events of that kind," David said referring to the Mark Lane lecture. "We could have a yearly series of these. A series of major events with well-known personalities. It's exciting!"