Commons requirements drop

By Jay Glass and Jamie Lynn Seifeldt

Minimum meal plan requirements for freshmen have been reduced by 20 points in a decision made Friday at 10 a.m. and announced in a memorandum later that day.

Based on point usage compiled on the 78th "feeding day" of a 102-day period, only one-third of freshmen had met their consumption requirements. The memorandum was jointly issued by Robert Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and H.E. Brammer, Director of Housing and Food Services.

According to Brammer, originally, they were "based on our best idea of the time." When asked if these levels rested on a valid basis, he replied "we won't know until after the fact."

The reduction in point requirements should enable 85 percent of the freshmen to fulfill their responsibilities. The changes will apply to spring term as well. There will be no change in meal plan prices for the spring term. When asked if there might be further adjustments in minimum point plans, Brammer replied "We have 75 percent of last term's experience behind us — those are not enough data points."

The decision to reduce point requirements was made after consultation with the "Dining Advisory Board, Faculty Residents, the Graduate Resident Tutors, Commons Committee, and individual students." Brammer commented, "One of the things that bothers me is that students think we were doing nothing."

MIT Corp. meets with GA

By Richard Salz

Editor's note: parts of this article are based on reporting done by Richard Epstein.

The Executive Committee of the General Assembly has formed a Commons Task Force to prepare recommendations students have for the present commons system. Announced at last Thursday's General Assembly (GA) meeting, the committee will be formed in conjunction with the Dormitory Council.

Students feel that nothing is being done, according to GA Floor Leader John Alem '82. "While there are many groups to deal with gripe and complaints, we want to provide solutions," he explained.

The key point of the GA meeting was the discussion with members of the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee. Speaking for the Corporation, President Howard Johnson said that they had approved of having an outside speaker at commencement "as an experiment" for this June's commencement. Senior Class President Mitchell Brook '81, who had been working for a speaker, said he considered the corporation's decision to be a "minor victory."

The new medical center was also discussed. Johnson pointed out that new center combines all medical facilities — both research and health care — in one facility and is the only one of its type in the country. Some GA members expressed concern that the new health could not be located in a more central location. The desired location was the real estate on Ames Street currently owned by the TRW Carr Division, but MIT was unable to obtain the property. The committee also pointed out that, given the direction of the Institute's expansion, the location was not unreasonable.

The committee also discussed with the GA the emphasis on writing at MIT and whether more emphasis should be placed on teaching students how to write. As one student claimed, "to graduate from MIT you don't have to be able to write, but you do have to be able to swim."

Today's issue of The Tech is the last one of the term. During IAP, The Tech will be published every Thursday and will resume its normal schedule with the February 3 issue.
He has been working for this moment his entire life. This is his last chance. For her, this could be the beginning. And it would be the perfect love story if it weren't for...

THE COMPETITION

They broke the cardinal rule of the competition...they fell in love

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Baha 'U' Llah
M.I.T., Baha'i Association

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**The MIT Musical Theatre Guild**
is interviewing prospective directors for Tech Show '81 on Dec. 21 & 22 at 7pm in W20-400, and prospective directors, choreographers, and musical directors for an AAF production of You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown on Dec. 9 & 10 at 8pm in W20-400.

Auditions for Charlie Brown will be held Jan. 5 & 6 at 7pm in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center.
For more information, call 253-924.
World

White House: Russians ready to move on Poland — "Preparations for possible Soviet intervention in Poland have been completed," by Moscow, according to the White House. The administration also warned that such action would have grave conse-
quences. The announcement came after a series of meetings President Carter held with his security advisors. In addition, the Pentagon has prepared some "mocked contingency plans," including placing some
European-based troops on a higher alert status. Poland has made no comment.

Iran has a better idea — Iran expects to make "some practical suggestions" to help resolve the hostage situation, according to Behzad
comment. European-based troops on a higher alert status. Poland has made

Nation

Crime wave strikes Dallas — A gang of six men robbed at least 20 persons in the last two weeks in the city of Dallas, Texas. Calling themselves the "over the hill gang," the men are all over 60 years old.

Sleeping on job doesn't pay — John Pavao was found sleeping behind a North Boulder, N.Y., Dairy Bar store where he was work-
ing. He was promptly arrested and now faces a two-to-four-year jail term. What was his work? Pavao apparently devoid off while robbing $180 from the store's safe.

Music

John Lennon killed — An unknown assailant shot and killed John Lennon at around 1:30 last night. The singer, songwriter, and former Beatle was walking through a park in New York City. His latest album Double Fantasy, was just released a couple of weeks ago.

By Richard Salz

Weather

A cold front will move through this morning, and winds will shift briefly
to the northeast today. Highs 47-51. Not much sunshine, though, and the par-
tial clearing in the afternoon will give way to more clouds and rain overnight and tomorrow morning. Lows tonight near 35. For
tomorrow, rain ending during the day and turning much colder. Highs near 40, gusts near 25. Chance of rain 70 percent toni-
ght, 90 percent tomorrow.

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Major tire makers have discontinued road hazard adjustments on tire fail-
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Our "LIFETIME GUARANTEES" are backed by the best brands in the business, including Goodyear, Continental, BFGoodrich, and Kirkland.
The commons fiasco

The announcement Friday by Robert Sherwood and Eugene Brammer that the minimum meal plan requirements for freshmen were being reduced was amazing in a number of respects.

Their memorandum frankly admitted that the administration had blown it by setting minimum meal plans too high. There can be little dispute over that.

There are three different aspects of the decision, though, which are extremely disturbing:

The Timing

The managers of the dining program waited until exactly two weeks before the end of the term to reduce the meal plan requirements. As a result, students who conscientiously avoided dining out in any of the wide variety of student houses in order to keep up their minimum meal requirement were penalized. Those who flouted the intent of the administration's program were vindicated.

Had Friday's announcement been made one month earlier, when it was just as clear that students were not on their minimum meal requirements, it would have been too late for managing the dining program. The penalty would be too high. Had it been made last week, it would have been too late for students to adjust their eating lifestyles.

Had minimum meal requirements been stretched to include IAP, students would also not have felt they were duped into eating by a schedule which would change at the very end of the term.

Admitting a mistake late in the game is certainly preferable to making students pay for the lack of planning. But in changing the minimum with only two weeks left, the administration is taking advantage of the fact that few people will notice the change. The student is left to bear the cost of the administration's failure. The reality of this is laughable. Either there would be no changes before the end of the term, or the cancellation of the dining program for the last week in July for $7.00 per year Third Class by the end of the fall term.

The Method

On the very day that Sherwood and Brammer issued their memorandum, Associate Director of Housing and Food Services George Hartwell and Program Coordinator for Dining and Residence Anita Walton were both quoted in these pages.

:::::At this point, anyone with reasonable commons and commons-sense would have recognized that any "recommendations" on changing meal requirements would be available by this week. Walton said that there would be no decision before the end of the term.

::The lack of coordination between those supposedly responsible for managing the dining program is laughable. Either Walton and Hartwell were comically misinformed and left out of the decision entirely or they knew full well what was happening and chose to play a game of cloak-and-dagger.

Either way, if students are led to believe that they can't trust the managers of the dining program, the credibility of the entire program will surely be undermined. How this can help the smooth implementation of a comprehensive dining plan studies us.

The Night Before Finals

Two nights to finals
And all through the dorm
Not a freshman was sleeping
Which had long been the norm.

The textbooks were lost
Thrown in corners to rot
He had done too little
They'd take time to spot.

This frosh felt like roving
Maybe raising a flap
Since he'd just woken up
From a twelve-hour nap.

First, she stopped at the room
Of the local six seed
He glanced up from the keyboard
But said not a word.

"What's the matter," she asked,
"Don't you have time to talk?"
He just grunted in Fortran
And went straight to his work.

Next, she paused by the lounge
Where a senior in two
Was lamenting he still had
No thesis to do.

"You sit here and rebel,
Maybe raising a flap,"
She sighed with dismay
And a tapped keg of beer.

She continued her walk.
For the length of the hall
Every door was shut tight
And all were boys.

Drained the mug in one gulp
And the councils, and teams,
Who decide not to, nerd.
"We are those privileged few
Who decide not to need.
We belong to the clubs,
And the councils, and teams,
We're in the one who run parties,
And meetings, and schemes.
"We know what's important,
And classes do count.
But they're not all that matters
When you finally get out." 

Then, what to her wondering eyes
Made a pitiful sight.
A partyer slurred
As he staggered from sight
"The answer is simple,"
"The night before finals, henry..."
"How is it," she inquired
"You sit here and rebel.
Whereas everyone else
Stays confined in his cell!"

"The answer is simple,"
A partyer slurred
"We are those privileged few
Who decide not to need.
We belong to the clubs,
And the councils, and teams,
We're in the one who run parties,
And meetings, and schemes.
"We know what's important,
And classes do count.
But they're not all that matters
When you finally get out." 

So to round out your life here
And keep yourself sane
Join an extracurricular
And use more of your brain.

The guy kept on dancing
As he staggered from sight
"Join a club—but 'til then
 Merry Christmas, good night."

Stephanie Pollack

Opinion
Decision's reasons ignored

(Continued from page 4)

The Scope

While Sherwood and Brammer address freshman underparticipation in their decision, the reasons are wholly ignored.

There must be some reason why freshmen who knew they would be losing their meal plan money still chose to avoid commons in droves.

The supposed "payoff" for one-sided rules and boards speaking programs, faculty associates to dorms, structural changes in facilities, improved sanitation and service have proved illusory. Few could blame the student body for feeling they were sold a bill of goods.

One year after being hired, Dining Coordinator Walton is still "feeling out" her job responsibilities, according to her boss, Dean McBay. A final determination of the "temporary" status of East campus dining seems to be a low priority.

In short, it seems that 11 months after the implementation of the new dining plan, the time is ripe for the addition of the new, dining plan, months after the implementation.

The administration is not taking students down with them. It is admirable that Brammer and Sherwood, at some cost to the Dining System’s financial base, finally chose to create a responsive dining program.

It is admirable that Brammer and Sherwood, at some cost to the Dining System’s financial base, finally chose to create a responsive dining program. It seems to be the only admirable move in the whole, drawn-out saga.

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Rockpile - Seconds of Pleasure Columbia records.

As four energetic solo careers willinging to lose the dust, a single band rises from the rubble, clearly exhibiting its solid foundations but leaving some doubt as to whether it is truly a pillar in the rock world. Up until now, Rockpile (Nick Lowe, Dave Edmunds, Brian Wratten and Terry Williams) have never recorded an album as a group, though their individual and collective efforts have hardly been negligible. Lowe and Edmunds have both released solo albums in recent years, Rockpile (together as Waymore) has existed since 1972, with notable bands, and the group's latest album, "Screamin' Eagles and N.O.W." features "Knitil and Fork," Chuck Berry's siren of "Oh What a Thrill!" and "If Sugar Was As Sweet As You." Also among these is the lead track "Teacher, Teacher," a rocker that may stand as the strongest on the album. The original mesh with the covers in a blend of the 50's and early 60's classic rock and English New Wave (reflecting Lowe's work at Stiff and EMI), with a trace of the new Pop sound of the 80's. Also included in the package is a seven-inch EP (a potential collector's item), featuring Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds' four tunes by the Everly Brothers: "Poor Jenny," "Poor Mary," "Crying in the Rain," and "When Will I Be Married?" The Precision Fluency Shaping Program (PFSP) works. And it works for 93% of all people who can muster up the courage to try just one more time. Because that's really all it'll take. It is 3 weeks. It is intensive. And, as we said, it works. The PFSP was developed more than 10 years ago by Dr. Ronald Webster, and is a powerful technique that is not based on speculative causes or psychological aspects of the disorder. What it is based on are the physical components of the speech pattern. And through carefully defined, progressive steps, the PFSP reconstructs the physical formulation of sounds, syllables, words and sentences to create fluent speech. The Precision Fluency Shaping Program is an outpatient program offered by the Department of Communication Disorders at New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn. Our next session is scheduled to begin December 29 and will run through January 16. Which means you'll probably be around ... and you'll probably be on semester break. (If not, other times can be arranged as sessions run monthly.) Communicate with us. But do it for yourself. Contact: Christine R. Primiano or Lori Koppler. (617) 935-5050, Ext. 248. NEW ENGLAND REHABILITATION HOSPITAL 2 Rehabilitation Way Woburn, MA 01801.
 eaten for the first day of line work. Luckily for Caine, flooding to the theaters this Christmas
under victim, has been systematic from a Nazi. There are sure to be lots of good films
out, the man who burned the authentic, replied. "I think beautiful burke, dyet photo e var the
were so stereotyped on purpose, Shagan
nong other aavAkfk; es1 rails, conveyed. When asked if the characters
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Cotton Turtleneck Jerseys--- 5.98
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Central War Surplus

Scc and the 24-hour Coffeehouse
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Caffeine Sale
Coffee and tea 10c
from Wednesday December 10
to Wednesday December 17
From 7pm to 7am

The Perfect Christmas Gift!
MIT Choral Society

And then there were none.

The MIT Choral Society, John Oliver, conductor, as if trying to outdo the Symphony Orchestra in adventurousness, presented a program that included singing in Czech and Russian the following day. I had my doubts as to whether they would pull it off; I'm glad to say that they did.

The first work performed, J. S. Bach's Passion Emanuel, was still the best. The orchestra played magnificently, bringing out a full complement of colors and giving it was a performance that was almost sensuously beautiful, the listener left surrounded by a polyphony of orchestral colors in excellent balance. Dear Schaff, timor, sang expressively and lyrically; Laurie Stewart Onsen did well enough in her small part. The chorus didn't seem to be unhappy singing in Czech and, closely coordinated, contributed to the sea of harmonies. I must say, however, that my attention was focused on the orchestra and soloists. Baralt's Cantata Profana was given in English; it was an exciting performance, full of the force of Baralt's rhythms. Chorus combined with tenor and orchestra to create a well of magic. Joseph Perrod, baritone, also performed in this piece; although he was fluent, I'm not sure that he understood the work as well as Schaff.

Rachmaninoff's Peone, op. 20, ended the concert. The women members of the chorus seemed to be rather overdominant but this was, nonetheless, an interesting rendition. Once more the blend of orchestral colors was a delight to the ear. As a storm built up in the orchestra, the chorus came in, a distant spirit led by the baritone. And that... the relaxed beauty of cellos and harps. Maybe the chorus was not perfectly structured here. But I enjoyed the performance. And isn't that what matters?

Jonathan Richmond

UROP Office

Part time help

needed 15-20 hours per week to assist with general office duties including typing, filing & answering etc. Pay $4.00 to start. MIT undergraduates only. Contact Susan Mitchell, 208-141, 1-5-84.

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Seconds of Pleasure

(Continued from page 6)

Both the band and the album have a quality that is rarely found today. The four members all share careers in rock 'n' roll that date back to the sixties, and they have maintained the traditions of their genre. For this reason, however, many listeners who were not raised on Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, and Elvis Presley may have trouble relating to the Rockpile sound. But for those of us who don't consider Bruce Springsteen or Devo the only legitimate minimal around, nor Sha-Na-Na as the only remnant of the Sock-Hop era, Seconds of Pleasure merits recommendation.

Rockpile recently swung through Boston for a show at the Orpheum on the first leg of their 1980 tour. Though they may like the small club scene better, the show proved that Rockpile is comfortable with any size audience. The highlight of the show was not theatrics but music. Flashbombs and lasers are out; rock 'n' roll takes over.

The two-hour set following Moon Martin's opening act featured most of the new tunes on the album and a fair amount of early covers including "The Wanderer" and my personal favorite, "Teacher, Teacher". Neither Lowe nor Edwards are particularly dynamic frontmen so the band played as a whole, rather than letting the show become a collection of self-important solo leads.

Somewhere between Elvis Presley and Elvis Costello, Rockpile has found a place in Rock and Roll.

Mark deCew
The Conference is open to all interested college students. In addition, student organizations on campus are especially encouraged to send delegations of members to the CLEMCUNC gathering. This year, the Conference will be held on June 21-25, 1981. The deadline to register for the event is Dec. 30, but preferential treatment is given to those who register by Nov. 20.

Any person or group interested in attending should write or call for more information: International Relations Club, University Cit. 301 #34, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 or call (216) 884-7292.

The MIT Literati Book Sale offers the MIT community an exciting opportunity to choose from thousands of new and used books, maps and records at bargain prices.

The Book Sale will be held on Dec. 10 & 11 from 10am to 4pm in the Library Conference Room, 14-0615. Be sure to stop in at the sale more than once as prices will be further reduced for clearance toward the end of the sale. All sale items are surplus library materials and proceeds from the sale are applied to the library materials replacement fund.

On Thurs., Dec. 11, in the Library Conference Room there will be better meeting to early admitted women students. All women students are encouraged to come and write personal letters to encourage women to accept admission to MIT.

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### MIT FOOD SERVICE
#### 1980 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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**UA News**

Hello!

The UA News appears regularly in the campus media, but nobody ever reads this opening paragraph anymore (Except for Chris MacKenzie, but he doesn't need to anyway). If anyone else out there is reading this, or wants to put something in the UA News, let Chris know at x3-2696 or in Room 400 of the Student Center.

**COMMONS TASK FORCE**

The UA is forming a task force to study the Commons system at MIT. Over IAP, the group will research the issue and present its final recommendations for spring term. If you are interested in working on this project, call the UA office at x3-2696.

**SORORITIES ON CAMPUS**

Much discussion has recently taken place regarding the formation of MIT sororities. Interested persons should contact Joyce Pollock at x3-2696.

**MIT CORPORATION**

December 22 is the deadline for nominations to the Corporation from recent MIT graduating classes (1979, 1980, and 1981). This valuable voice in the decision-making process must have the support and interest of students to continue. For information, contact the Alumni Center, Room 10-110, x3-8220.

**UA ELECTIONS**

Elections for UAP, UAVP, Class Officers and other positions will be held Wednesday, March 11, 1981. Petitions will be available in the UA office beginning at noon, Tuesday, February 3, 1981.

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**COMES**

**Technicality**

By Bill Spitzak

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**COMES**

**Technicality**

By Bill Spitzak
Regis victim as WBB wins big

By Steve Kim

"This game will show what these girls can really do." If these words from women's basketball coach Jean Heiney eventually prove to be prophetic through the course of the season, Rockwell-Cole may well become something akin to the Black Hole of Calcutta for future Tech opponents. In their home opener last Saturday night, the women Engineers routed Regis College by the unlikely score of 51-6.

Dominating almost every facet of the game, Tech overwhelmed the bewildered and confused Regis squad. Both teams started the game in 2-1-2 zones, but that was where the similarities ended. Regis was wholly incapable of penetrating MIT defense. They were simply unable to do so resulted in loss of possession 27 times in the game. The three scorpy Tech guards, Aniha Flynn '83, Katherine Alston '84, and Terry Fells '84, were able to come up with numerous steals by capitalizing on the errant passes and sloppy ball-handling of the Regis team.

Almost all the Regis shots were attempted from the perimeter, another indication of that team's inability to slip inside the Tech zone for the close shots. In another indication of that team's inability to slip inside the Tech zone for the close shots, the team.

Felts '84, were able to come up with numerous steals by capitalizing on the errant passes and sloppy ball-handling of the Regis team. Of the Engineers' 23 field goals, 16 came from buckets launched from the perimeter, another indication of the Regis team's inability to slip inside the Tech zone for the close shots. In another indication of that team's inability to slip inside the Tech zone for the close shots, the team.

Well, maybe it should Today our knowledge is exploding so fast that people who want to keep abreast of things are actually falling behind. There's simply too much to read. Too much homework. Too many books. Too many reports and memos. What's the solution? Learn how to read faster and better. You can do it. Look for far over 1,000,000 people have done so People with different jobs. Different IQs. Different interests. Different educations. Students. Businessmen. Housewives. People have taken at their own pace developed by Evelyn Wood. A prominent educator. They have taken in less than two hours They can read this ad in 20 seconds. They can read an entire issue of Time in 35 minutes.

They don't skip or skim either. They read every word for do they use machines. Instead they let the material they're reading determine how they should read it. And - mark this well - they actually understand more and remember more and enjoy more when they read like they do. That's right. They understand more. They remember more. They enjoy more.

This is the same course three Presidents have had taught to them. The same one Senators and Congresswomen have taken, and the same course successfully completed by thousands of persons in Boston and New England over the past 19 years. It's seven weeks long. 212 hours a week, with classes held regularly in Boston, and suburbs.

The IAP classes are tailored to fit the January period. The classes will meet twice weekly for 3 weeks, 2 hours each meeting. At a greatly reduced rate, you will receive the regular Reading Dynamics course and the remarkable reading gains.

Special class for INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES PERIOD

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