By Barry S. Samman

David S. Saxon '41, president of the University of California, will become chairman of the MIT Corporation July 1, succeeding retiring chairman Howard W. Johnson.

The corporation elected Saxon Friday, following the recommendations made by the corporation's executive committee and a search committee appointed by MIT President Paul E. Gray '54 in June.

"The problems facing higher education just now, for both public and private institutions, are unusually difficult and urgent."

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**One in four frosh fails writing exam**

By John J. Ying

Roughly one quarter of the freshmen taking the preliminary version of the freshman writing examination failed the test, according to Associate Professor Kenneth R. Manning, chairman of the faculty committee on the Writing Requirement.

Since this year was a transitional one, freshmen were encouraged, but not required, to take the test. Manning, drawing with the Class of 1987—next year's freshmen—all students were encouraged to demonstrate a minimum level of writing proficiency.

"Surely you have little use for makeshift device."" —Saxon to Bok

"I hope and believe that the perspective gained during my long tenure at the University of California will serve to advance the interests of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." —Saxon to Bok

"I am enthusiastic about this appointment," said Gray, "because David Saxo0n comes from the freshman class that has the same kind of preoccupation with quality in what it does that MIT has.

"The experience he has gained there will be very valuable to MIT," Gray said. Saxo0n and Gray participated together in the March 1982 conference on relations between universities and private corporations at Pejaro, Dunes, California. "In a way, Saxo0n said, "my election as chairman of the MIT Corporation completes a circle for me. For I began my academic life there as a physics student."

Saxon earned his SB in physics at MIT in 1941. He worked as a research physicist at the MIT Radiation Laboratory from 1943 to 1946, receiving his PhD in physics from the Institute in 1944.

After working for Phillips Laboratorv in New York City for one year, Saxo0n named assistant professor of physics at the University of California at Los Angeles. He rose through the academic ranks at UCLA, holding the positions of professor, department chairman, and dean.

Saxon spent a year as provost of the University of California's nine campuses before the Board of Regents elected him president in 1975.

MIT's doctoral programs in electrical, mechanical engineering tops in US

By Laura Wiener

MIT's doctoral programs in electrical and mechanical engineering rank first in the nation, while the doctoral program in civil engineering ranks second, and that in chemical engineering places seventh, according to a recent report sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences.

"We were very pleased," commended Joel Moses PhD '67, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. "The electrical engineering department has ranked number one in all such studies over the past twenty years."

David N. Wilmot '62, head of the mechanical engineering department, expressed little surprise at the rating, saying, "The faculty in the mechanical engineering department are committed to excellence in research and teaching and the rating is a good indication of this."

Civil engineering department head Joseph M. Sussman PhD '68 and chemical engineering department head James Wicks were unavailable for comment.

Although the NAS emphasized the study was not intended to provide rankings of graduate programs, the results can easily be used to compare departments. Since the study would be used to rank schools, the Association of Graduate Schools (AGS) drafted a letter opposing the study. The AGS never sent the letter, due to the intervention of two board members who were connected with the study.

MIT considered not participating in the study, according to a letter from Dean of the Graduate School Kenneth Wadleigh '43, designated the study's coordinator at MIT, to President Paul E. Gray '54.

The NAS organizers defended schools that did not name evaluators for the study would be evaluated on the basis of data available outside the institutions, in Wadleigh's letter. Wadleigh termed the situation a "catch-22."

"In a February 1981 personal letter to the study's sponsors, AGS President Ernest Q. Campbell warned, 'You will give the impression public a small set of numbers, each of which is an unknowable composite of loyalties, rumor, casual compliance with..."
**Gagle cops 103rd Tech managing board board**

**SPECIAL TO THE TECH**

In a misguided attempt to ensure that the composition of the board reflects the diversity of the student body, the Tech's oldest and largest campus newspaper, the managing board has elected successors in proportion to the department's total membership. Matthew W. Giamporcaro '85 was promoted to the position of executive editor, where he can continue to serve pizza and soda after the sun went down. Amidst clouds of dark clouds, and promulgated to the board's request to become night editor. Giamporcaro's new responsibilities in the drudgery of night editing will not yet be outgrown.

The board then elected Barry S. Surman '84 to the position of editor-in-chief, in charge of writing, editing, and managing the staff, as well as answering irate anonymous threats, the board is anxious to assume.

John J. Ying '84 and Burt Kallick '85 smiled when they were elected news editors, seemingly oblivious to the mushroom into which they will soon be thrust. Rumors on the fourth floor of the new medical building have already been made in their names.

William A. Spitzak '83 and Charles P. Brown '84 ascended to the board's request to become night editors. Both these upperclassmen should have known better.

Laurie S. Goldman '84 and Omar Velez '85 made a pact to serve as photo editors until death do them part. Velez is the first android elected to a managing board position.

Martin Dickey '85 was reelected to the sports editors' slot, a job he has not yet outgrown.

The board chose to leave the position of arts editor vacant and has taken off an advertisement in Rolling Stone to secure an appropriate candidate.

Paul Gaburdi '84 was elected advertising manager, a position he is anxious to assume.

In recognition of their past contributions to The Tech and with an eye to what they promise for the future, David G. Shaw '82 and Don Zlotnick '82 were named contributing editors. Shaw intends to continue his service to the arts department until the ad in Rolling Stone pans out, while von Zenowitz, Halperin, and Weidman will continue to contribute to the paper's production department.

Put out to pasture for a much-needed rest are Ivan K. Fong '87, chairman of volume 102, Jer Lynn Scaife '83, editor-in-chief and Tony Zamparutti '84 of the editorial board.

The volume 102 board closed its meeting with a resolution recognizing in Acapulco after 5 days work.

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**One fourth of freshman class fails writing diagnostic test**

(In continuation from page 1) Previosly Mac B. Low.

The MIT faculty approved the writing requirement April 21. Manning's committee has had the responsibility of determining the exact criteria for fulfilling the two parts of the requirement: the first phase, checking for basic writing competence, will have to be completed during the freshman year; and the other phase, confirming the ability to write in one's professional field, will have to be finished by the end of the junior year.

"The interesting thing [about the quality of the writing] is the diversity of the scale," commented Manning. "Some students wrote very excellent, exciting essays, and then you have those who don't write well at all."

"Some of the students [who failed] have been offended," said Walters, "but in general they have been understanding. Some have even come in saying, 'I know I can't write.'"

The exact requirements have not yet been finalized by the committee, but Manning commented, "I would think something like the [writing examination] will be given again next year simply because we got a lot of information quickly."

Students might also be allowed to complete the first phase, writing an essay or by submitting one of their papers. Manning noted, "Diversity is in the air of the requirement; students will have different experiences. Students think that there is going to be some monolithic requirement which everyone will have to do the same thing — but this is not the case."

Students will probably have some papers completed in the discipline to fulfill the second phase of the requirement, according to Walters. These papers could include UROP final reports or papers written in writing cooperative courses.

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**MIT ranks 2nd in US in civil engineering**

(Continued from page 1) study of 41 disciplines. The study's organizers noted that faculty members in the evaluated fields rate 326 doctoral programs with students comprising 90 percent of the department's total graduate student population. The evaluators rated, on a scale of 1 to 5, the scholarly quality of the programs, the effective-ness of the program in the education of scholars, the research, and the effectiveness of the program in the education of scientists. The change in program quality in the last five years and the similarity in the work of the program faculty.

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**Canadian is a living language.**

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**Molson Golden. That's Canadian for great taste.**

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Nation

House votes on MX today — The US House of Representatives is scheduled to vote today on financing the MX and President Reagan's proposed dense-pack basing system. Advocates and critics of the MX agree deliberations over the fate of the missile will not be swift and may carry over into the next Congress. Dense-pack basing, one of the latest in more than a score of basing plans, entails the packing of 100 MX missiles into a small area, which, according to proponents of the plan, would cause incoming Soviet warheads to blow each other up, leaving many of the MX missiles intact.

Stormy weather claims 40 lives in the West — About 40 people are dead due to tornadoes, hurricane-force winds, and violent snowstorms that occurred throughout the West and Midwest last week. In the Mississippi Valley, heavy rains caused rivers to overflow, resulting in flooding that forced hundreds of people to flee their homes.

Weather

December weather continues — Partly to mostly sunny skies continue today, with a high in the low 50s. Colder tonight, with lows of 20 degrees. Highs temperatures in the upper 40s to near 50 degrees.

Booz·Allen & Hamilton is seeking 1983 graduates to work as Research Associates.

Booz·Allen & Hamilton, Inc. is a leading international management consulting firm working with companies on issues of strategy, marketing, systems technology, and other areas of concern to top management.

The Research Associate position is for a two year period and preferably for graduates who will have deferred admittance to a top MBA program. Candidates should have outstanding records of academic achievement and prior exposure to the business environment.

This position offers an opportunity to gain meaningful experience in a demanding business environment. It provides a solid and well regarded background for graduate business education and future career growth.

Position Locations: New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Houston.

Interested candidates should send resume, undergraduate transcript, list of business schools applied to, and GMAT scores by January 28 to:

Luis Greiner
BOOZ·ALLEN & HAMILTON
101 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10178

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Editors

Must tuition rise?

Following on the heels of last year's 17.6 percent rise in tuition and accommodating 18 percent increase in equity level, MIT is once again considering hiking tuition and the equity level in order to increase the rate at which its endowment grows. Director of Finance John A. Currie '57 has spoken of possible rises of eight or nine percent, in contrast Monday night, despite his year's sharply reduced rate of roughly six percent.

Currie suggests the motivation for the additional increase is the need to finance facilities which are more competitive and to counteract decreasing research funds. This year's budget for various support services including the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, libraries, and physical plant has been reduced by five percent, and future cuts in academic programs are already under consideration. While it is undeniable that MIT is feeling the effects of the national economic slump, it is not unreasonable for students to absorb the brunt of this.

Rather than continuing to attempt to balance the budget on the backs of its students, MIT must begin to investigate serious alternative sources of revenue to make up for the recent cuts in academic programs.

Early next semester, the Academic Council will submit recommendations to the President to President Paul E. Gray '54, who will then make recommendations to the MIT Corporate Executive Committee. It is certainly not too early for students to begin making their views known.

Condemn bigotry

Vandals flooded the GAMIT (Gays at MIT) office and damaged the room's floor and the ceiling beneath it. The MIT community must act quickly to prevent such an act from happening again.

All groups, whether nonstudent or not, must be aware that the rights of their neighbors are simply irreplaceable at this institution.

Despite the earnest attempts of many community members, discrimination and bigotry are still alive and flourishing at MIT. Not only gay students, but also members of other minority groups are often harassed by fellow students, in both public and private ways. Women, foreign students, students of racial groups, and those who hold some religious beliefs often suffer.

It is absolutely imperative that the MIT community act quickly to prevent an act of this nature from happening again. The Institute must take serious action to curtail harassment of members of minority groups at this institution.

To the Editor:

In an interview in The Tech on November 9, I was correctly stated that the grading scale in EEC5 was generally B-centered. What I intended to say was that it was a B centered system. I would be grateful if you would clarify the statement in your next issue.

I made my statement on the basis of a handout, not hard data. But I have checked the data that I have and the statement holds. The percentages of A's and B's among graded students in 12 required subjects in the department during Spring 1982 were 45, 43, 61, 60, 48, 46, 40, 60, 65, 68, 73. During Fall 1981 the similar percentages (for the somewhat different list of required subjects offered) were 81, 45, 60, 46, 74, 61, 60, 45, 54, 68, 72, 82. The two 45% occurred in 6.002. Students have indeed had some trouble with that subject recently. We think they are doing better this term and don't know what all the numbers mean but I do have some trouble to do with everything, since that affects all required courses and I don't know about the same degree.

Brand also comments on our D-/P policy and points out, as per MIT Faculty Regulation 2.3.1.2, the definition of D is "Minimally acceptable performance, demonstrating at least partial familiarity with the subject material and some capacity to deal with relatively simple problems, but also demonstrating deficiency serious enough to make it indispensable to proceed further in the field without additional work." We have urged faculty advisors in EEC5 to take this definition seriously. In our experience most of the two or three students who get into serious academic difficulties at MIT did so by failing advanced subjects without adequate preparation. It seemed to us better for these students to deal with the problem early rather than too late. The final appeal to the department Educational Policy Agreement with us who reviewed the policy were recommending to our faculty advisors the following statement:

Leaders made, not born

If you're going to force students to absorb the brunt of the national economic slump, it is not reasonable to talk about the need to continue to maintain the backs of its students, MIT must begin to investigate serious alternative sources of revenue to make up for the recent cuts in academic programs.

To the Editor:

It seems about time for someone at MIT to be preparing us. But does it? Like any other talent or skill, leadership is something that needs to be learned and practiced. The problem is this group with unbounded talent that they are having trouble finding members, especially ones who are willing to spend some time on this activity, becoming officers. Solutions are suggested to this problem by the structure of these groups, create a large pool of officers in their place and add incentives to become a part of it. These are short term solutions that are not at their root cause. What we are experiencing at this time at MIT is a significant lack of leaders in the student body. This is not because of the leaders but we will also be expected to make up for the recent cuts in academic programs.

This is an awesome responsibility and one that MIT should be preparing us. But does it? Like any other talent or skill, leadership is something that needs to be learned and practiced. Solutions are suggested to this problem by the structure of these groups, create a large pool of officers in their place and add incentives to become a part of it. These are short term solutions that are not at their root cause. What we are experiencing at this time at MIT is a significant lack of leaders in the student body. This is not because of the leaders but we will also be expected to make up for the recent cuts in academic programs.

To the Editor:

The whole controversy between MIT and the City of Cambridge over the Simplex Complex totally absurd. It seems that MIT should have anticipated that Cambridge will never zone for offices, classrooms or dorms at Simplex, that it has some of the best minds in the country telling us that this is a unknown reason the City Council wants to prevent MIT from expanding through central Square in City Hall, what is good in Cen- tral Square anyway? Perhaps they are afraid Cambridge will be reincorporated as the two cities are willing to spend some time on this activity, becoming officers. Solutions are suggested to this problem by the structure of these groups, create a large pool of officers in their place and add incentives to become a part of it. These are short term solutions that are not at their root cause. What we are experiencing at this time at MIT is a significant lack of leaders in the student body. This is not because of the leaders but we will also be expected to make up for the recent cuts in academic programs.

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**Simplex controversy absurdist**

(Continued from page 4) could get the Celts as a permanent tenant. All that would be needed is a parquet floor and a large parking garage under the arena would neatly solve the parking problems associated with arenas such as the Garden. The Arena would not have any problems with funding; MIT is well endowed and the Celts would be willing to help out. Once it is built it would have no competition and would quickly recover its initial investment. All in all this seems like a reasonable compromise between both MIT and The City of Cambridge.

Roland Ouellette '86

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**Career and Freelance Opportunities for Games and Graphics Developers and Designers**

We represent a newly established and very well financed company engaged in the design, development and manufacture of microcomputer and VCS-type cartridges and disk games.

We are now establishing an independent software group for the development and design of microcomputer games for the Atari 400 and 800, Apple II, Commodore VIC 20 and 64, and Texas Instruments 99/4A microcomputers, as well as Atari VCS and Mattel Intellivision game systems.

The individuals we are looking for may have experience only one of the above systems. They may wish to work for us on a part or full-time basis, either in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area or the Los Angeles/San Francisco Bay area or where you are now situated. We're not interested in where you will be, only that you're happy creating for yourself and us.

You may have either one or both of the talents necessary — the ability to create a new game with terrific play appeal and/or the ability to create excellent graphics on any one or more of the just mentioned systems. If you have both talents — GREAT! If not, we'll team you up with a partner.

We are also interested in people who can convert existing games from one system to another.

Compensation is wide open including full-time salaried situations or compensation based upon specific work performed.

In addition to fixed salary compensation, we will also pay royalties on both original games and conversions. There is also the possibility for talented individuals to receive equity in our company. If you have an interest in telling us more about yourself, please write or send a resume to us at the address below.

Better yet, if you have a sample of your work on diskette, cartridge or cassette — include it with your letter or resume making sure to note on which system it will run.

All properties sent to us will be kept confidential and returned to you after evaluation, if desired.

Address all inquiries to:
Mr. Steven Sanford
Anametrics, Inc.
617th Floor
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112

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**Simplex controversy absurdist**

(Continued from page 4) place to hang the championship banners.

Actually the location would be much better than the Garden: the Cambridge-Allston exit off the Pike is much better than the Expressway to Causeway St. A T-stop could easily be built at the intersection of Main St. and Mass. Ave. connecting directly to the arena. The large parking garage under the arena would neatly solve the parking problems associated with arenas such as the Garden. The Arena would not have any problem with funding; MIT is well endowed and the Celts would be willing to help out. Once it is built it would have no competition and would quickly recover its initial investment. All in all this seems like a reasonable compromise between both MIT and The City of Cambridge.

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**More Culture**

The Musical Theater Guild will hold auditions for Jacques Brel's musical "Mountebank" on January 3 at Room 407 of the Student Center and on January 4 in the Sala de Puntillas, Rice at 7pm. Call x-3624 for more info and bring a prepared song, if possible.

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**Food!!!**

Everyone is welcome at the Freshman Class feed on Wednesday at 8:30-10:00p.m in the I-Dot. Admission is 50c for a just-filled repair of donuts and cider.

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**Get Greasy!**

The ASA General Committee will meet Wednesday at 7:30pm in Room 400 of the Student Center. Various elections will occur. Be there or be de-organized! (just joking . . .)

**Slime Money**

The Student Telethon is coming February 13-24. The Alumni Fund needs you to solicit callers from your living group. Anyone interested in playing the "Judas goat" should call Rhonda at x-3281 or Sue Berg at x-7284.

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**Concert Band 1, Christmas Music 0**

The MIT Concert Band will play a program of Christmas music in a Student Center concert on December 10, in Lobby 7. Now, enough of this cultural stuff . . .

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**Im News**

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**Erratum**

The columns entitled "Japanese on economic warpath this time" that appeared in Friday's edition of The Tech should have included Mark Templer's by-line. We regret the error.

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**Ira M. Summer '83**

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**Join The Tech**

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**Be part of a tradition**

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**Career and Freelance Opportunities for Games and Graphics Developers and Designers**

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All properties sent to us will be kept confidential and returned to you after evaluation, if desired.

Address all inquiries to:
Mr. Steven Sanford
Anametrics, Inc.
617th Floor
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112

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**UA News**

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**Get Greasy!**

The ASA General Committee will meet Wednesday at 7:30pm in Room 400 of the Student Center. Various elections will occur. Be there or be de-organized! (just joking . . .)

**Attain Recognition!**

All members of the MIT Chapter of the Yale Precision Marching Band should stop by the UA Office (X-20-401) to pick up their certificate to membership.

**Seniors**

It's not too early to start helping you class officers with the Senior Gift Program. We need representatives from each living group (dormitories and fraternities) as well as off campus people. If you're interested in going the class of '83 about 3 hours per week next term, leave your name with Ken Dumas (677-188) or Dawn Levenson (677-276). Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, at 6pm in Room 400 of the Student Center.

**Run the Meatmarket!**

TCA is looking for an editor for the 1987 Freshman Picture Book. If you're interested in looking at pictures of all the freshmen before anyone else (and having a fine opportunity to memorize interesting personal details about them), stop by the TCA office (X-20-408) and leave your name. Most of the work will be done during the spring and fall terms, for formation, call Ira Sommer (X-20-401) or the TCA office (X-3885).

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**UA News Needs New EDIT!**

I must! If you want this crummy job, call x-2006 and leave a message for Ken Segel.

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**So does TCA!**

TCA needs an Editor-in-Chief and section editors for their world-famous HoAGAMM! Yes, that thrillingly inspirational guide needs a staff dedicated to excellence and fine restaurant reviews. Call Ira Sommer (see above).

Another one, too! TCA has begun production on an Activities Guide and Handbook. This publication will incorporate some of the activities at MIT by putting together everything anyone needs to know to start an activity. This is the first time that such a daring adventure has been attempted and TCA will need a lot of help to get it out by Spring 1983. If you're interested, call Ira (see above, again). No experience necessary; if you want to work, they want you.
COMPUTER SALE

Extraordinary savings on used & demo computer equipment.

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by Arthur Lee

Indoor track opened its season Saturday in a meet against Brandeis and WPI, beating both with a score of 81 points to Brandeis' 55 and WPI's 33.

The scoring was very close throughout the field events. The Engineers, however, emerged as the leaders, dominating most of the ten running events.

MIT dominated the 35-pound weight throw event. Pat Perris '85 took fifth with a throw of 50' 6 1/2", Greg Procopio '85 hit 42' 1 1/2" to take third, and William Kelly "83 and Jerry "81 took first and second, respectively.

Eric Weaver '83, who had leaped 6' 4" in the high jump with 6' 4". Andy Krystal '85 jumped 6' 6" to take second, and Barry Kronstein '84 snatched third with 5' 8".

The record-setting speed of New American Paul News '83 may be missed in the 1500 and 800 meters, but there are those who have potential to fill the void. MIT has Chris Kurker '84, who ran fourth in the 1500; John Hradamsky '85, second in the 600; and Alex Abeliovich '86, fourth in the same.

Another MIT trio dominated the scoring in the 400 meters. Dave McMullen '83, John Taylor '84, and Jack Pae '86 took first, second, and fourth, respectively. Meanwhile, David Richards '86 took first in the 300 meters, and Cronin was third.

The 55-meter dash saw another trio of Engineers do well. The winner was Lyman Taylor '85. Ed Arendberg '85 took third, and fourth went to George Burroughs '83. Ken Kovach '83 ran a 5:31.6 for second in the 1000 meters, while Andrew Peddie '86 settled for fourth with a time of 2:39.7.

In the 3000 meters, however, the Engineers were unable to score. To redeem themselves, the squad sent John DeRubeis '83, Taylor, Richards, and anchorman Andrew Peddie to win first in the 1000-meter relay in 2:31.6. Peddie, Abloioivic, Kovach, and anchor Kurker were second in the 300-meter relay.

"We did better than I expected," MIT coach Gordon Kelly said. "But we must keep in mind that these two schools have never been particularly strong."

The team will run against Division I Holy Cross Thursday at 6pm in the Athletics Center.

The prospects for next year are even brighter. MIT will return 14-16 players, including the starting eight and sophomore Munro, who was named one of the weekend tournament's top six players. The announcement came a week after Munro was named to the EAIW Division III Northeast all-star team.

"I think with one year of maturity they can take a team like Sonoma," Casseman concluded. "We just need to avoid injuries and bad luck.

The Dining Room

by A.R. Garner, Jr.

DIRECTED BY THOMAS GREENWALD

THE DINING ROOM

The Texas Instruments Home Computer.

It's a whole new way to learn.

Having your own computer can open a whole new world for you. Whatever your chosen field, you'll find the Texas Instruments Home Computer a powerful tool for analysis, problem solving, record keeping, decision making, research, and more. And the power it places in your hands can be put to work quickly and easily.

Broad choice of software

Pre-programmed Solid State Software Command Modules — based on the same concept proven in TIs programmable calculators and containing up to 30k bytes of read-only memory — simply snap into place and you're ready to go. There are more than 40 of them. And over 400 more programs are available in cassette and diskette formats. There's a broad and fast-growing choice in the areas of engineering, science, business, art, self-improvement ... and entertainment.

Powerful programming capability

For your own programming, you'll find TI BASIC is a rich and versatile language. It's powerful, yet easy to learn and use. What's more, it's built right into the Texas Instruments Home Computer. Random-access memory supplied in 16k bytes expandable to 48k bytes. There's an excellent, typewriter-style, full-travel keyboard with overlays for second functions. Sixteen colors are available and sound through five octaves — 110 Hz to beyond 40,000 Hz — with capability for three simultaneous tones. At the heart of it all a 9900-family, 16-bit microprocessor.

Optional accessories — including speech!

With the Solid State Speech Synthesizer accessory, you can add electronic speech — more than 370 English words. Use it with the Terminal Emulator II Command Module and TI's phoneme stringing technique delivers a virtually unlimited vocabulary. Other optional accessories include Memory Expansion (32k bytes of RAM), Disk Memory Drive and Controller, Telephone Coupler (MODEM), Solid State Printer, RS232 Interface, Wired Earnings Controllers, 16-inch Color Monitor, and a Video Modulator.

Compare and you'll find the TI-99/4A Home Computer gives you more for your money, feature for feature. And, if you have a television receiver, you can get started for less than $600! See your dealer today for a demonstration.

Texas Instruments invented the integrated circuit, microprocessor and microcomputer. Being first is our tradition.
Vball falls in quarterfinals

By Robert E. Malchman

The women's volleyball team beat Western Maryland 3-0 to advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III Championship at Westminster, Maryland, Friday, Nov. 0 13 to Sonoma State on Saturday, bringing MIT's Cinderella season to a close.

"The squad tied for fifth place in the NCAAs. They are champions of the EAC," said senior net setter Peggy Kniffin, who was the only veteran on the squad.

The youthful team is one of, if not the best, in the East, according to head coach David A. Castenon. "We beat the rest of the East ( Consortium) rather easily," he said.

In Friday evening's match against fifth-seeded first Western Maryland, the Engineers jumped ahead 2-0 in the first game. At that point MIT committed some errors, according to Castenon, and led behind 1-4. Here, Castenon stopped the line and proceeded to serve nine straight aces.

The opposition could not solve Castenon's vicious topspin, and fell behind 13-8, never to recover, as MIT was 15-8. Can's point was the turning point of the match, Castenon said. The demoralized hometown favorites went belly-up, as MIT, never trailing, rolled to 15-7 and 15-11 victories.

Saturday's match against fourth-seeded Sonoma State (California) did not go as well. Numerous side-outs led to a 4-7 MIT deficit and Castenon perked to more substitutions. "I had to switch offensively," he explained. "And unfortunately the team was not used to it."

The Engineers lost 5-15. MIT dominated the second game by hitting off Sonoma blocks. The squad played their spikes well, slamming the ball off the sides of the defenders' hands, sending unreturnable volleys into the enemy court. The Engineers romped 15-6.

Game three was pivotal to the match. Sonoma revamped its defense by not attempting to block all MIT spikes, taking their chances trying to save the hits before they reached floor. The strategy worked, as the Engineers grew tentative, unsure of what form the Sonoma defense would take on any given set.

Worse for MIT, Sonoma's transition game took off. The Californians got off their shots about twice as fast as MIT, Castenon said. The run-and-gun forced the Engineers to scramble for position without time to set up their traditionally awesome defense, leading to another 5-15 defeat.

By game four the Engineers were too tired to keep up with Sonoma's라king defense-setting spike attack. The weary team lost 9-15, as Sonoma advanced to the semifinals next weekend in San Diego.

Despite the closing loss, Castenon was not unhappy with the season. "I feel excellent," he said. "We achieved much more than I ever thought we could at the beginning of the season."

'These girls are great players. They have learned a lot in only two years. They're really improving. They enjoy playing," he added.

The Engineers are looking forward to defending the NCAA title in Santa Barbara, but are unsure of whether they'll be able to do so. "We have to pick up our game," said Castenon. "But I don't know if we can."

The Engineers' Cinderella year to a close.