Top colleges want better high schools

By David S. Rho

The admissions directors of the Ivy Group announced their support for a statement supporting higher academic standards in secondary schools June 8.

The recommendations of the Ivy Group, which consists of the eight schools of the Ivy League plus MIT, said they "strongly support" the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, a group called for the improvement of academic standards in American high schools and colleges.

The admissions officers recommended a program of high school core courses — including four years of both English and mathematics; three years each of foreign language, and history or social studies; and a year of fine arts — to adequately prepare students enrolling in colleges.

The group urged students to acquire computer literacy and "to take the strongest possible secondary school curriculum, registering for honors or advanced placement courses wherever possible.

Peter H. Richardson '48, director of admissions at MIT, said the institute will not change its undergraduate admissions requirements.

The most recent change in requirements allows students — beginning with those that entered in 1981 — to take the College Board Achievement Test in Biology, according to MIT's Educational Video Research sets are available from the Institute's Educational Video Research sets are available from the

L. Fred Jewett, dean of admissions at Harvard and Radcliffe colleges, said "the quality of a student's secondary school program is extremely important to a student's performance in the college, especially with respect to courses.

"In recent years," he said, "the quality of students that have been applying to college has been declining. In the last couple of years I sense that there is a declining number of students that have been applying to college that have been doing their best.

"Since the late 1950s and early 1960s, there has been a decline in the number of students that are applying to high school programs," Jewett said. "This is a concern of colleges at all levels and in the business and professional schools as well.

"Those high schools that do better in preparing their students for college are not only better, but more importantly, in professional schools and in the business world.

Harvard has no plans to change its admissions requirements, Jewett said, but he noted that "by adhering to the statement made by the Ivy Group we will be urging stronger candidates to apply.

"MIT certainly will not provide outright grants to replace lost aid for students refusing to register," said Provost Francis E. L. Hildebrand. "Whether or not the Institute will provide any substitute funding, such as market-rate loans, depends on the number of students requiring additional funding. Low said.

"The timing of this ruling is terrible," said Byers. "We have already been made. There is no time to react.

"The [Ivy League] Amendment is not appropriate," said MIT Vice Presi- dent Constantine B. Simonides.

"We will obey what the law is," he said, but he noted the law discriminates against the poor who need financial aid and against men, since women are not eligible for the draft.

The law requires all students applying for federal aid, both male and female, to fill out a financial aid form this year stating they either have registered for the draft or are ineligible to register, which is the case for all females and males under eighteen, said Stanley G. Hudson, associate di- rector of student financial aid.

Next year, eligible male students will also have to bring proof of draft registration to the financial aid office within the first six weeks of the term, Hud- son said.

Approximately 3000 MIT under- graduates and graduates will receive Title IV funding next year, including Guaranteed Student Loans, Pell Grants, and Graduate Student Loans, Hud- son noted.

The last communication we received from the Department of Education was that we are not to put the Solomon Law into effect on July 1 as had previously or- dered," said Robert M. Byers, di- rector of the MIT News Office.

The Department of Education has not contacted any colleges or universities since the Supreme Court ruling, Byers said.

Since MIT and other colleges have averaged out financial aid information to next year's freshmen, he said, the implementa- tion of the law at this date would be totally and diffi- cult.

"The history of this regulation, I wouldn't even want to go to bed that happens from one week to another," Hudson said. "We are learning in this process not to do anything that is not re- quired today. The bottom line is MIT will have to settle down and comply with the regulations — whatever they are.

"We are as frustrated with this as the students are — if not more so," Hudson noted.

"The most important thing is for students getting all the bright kids they can serve," Richardson added, noting that the quality of student aid has not declined recently.

Nationally, however, Richard- son said the "group of kids coming out of high school in 1983 hasn't had the academic rigor of those from, say, 1965. It's because the high schools have not concen- trated on the academics as they have in previous years.

The average student who en- ters Harvard has studied poten- cially for only six weeks, he said.

"Solid academic achievement is important to all who enter the top schools," Richardson said. "As the leaders of the aca- demic community, we feel this statement draws attention to this.

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Student starts fire in chemistry lab

By John J. Ying

A student accidentally started a fire in a chemistry laboratory on the fourth floor of Building 6 in the evening of Wed., June 29.

A student was preparing a mix- ture of gasoline and hexanes for an experiment under a ventilation hood, according to MIT Police Chief James Oliveri.

A MIT officer that was inside the lab, according to Paul F. Barrett, director of Physical Plant, smoke damage was done to the laboratory, he said.

The ventilation hoods will cost several thousand dollars to re- place, Barrett said.

The Institute's insurance company has already inspected the damage, and MIT has filed a damage claim, Barrett noted.

The Chemistry Department will have to decide whether or not to replace the hood in the laboratory, Barrett said.

Ordering new hoods will take several months, he said.

The following article, which contains information regarding fire prevention and safety, is reprinted from the MIT Police Department.

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Government help is hurting blacks

Black in America have been fighting an uphill battle for civil and political rights for hundreds of years. Since the Civil War, African Americans have made tremendous progress, but still face significant challenges, limited by systemic issues.

Since Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, the blacks' struggle for equality has continued. However, a lack of government social spending, more emphasis on tokenism, and multiple negative factors has slowed the process, it has taken a proud but part of the problem.

Furthermore, our affirmative action program has become an attractive career for many disadvantaged groups, including blacks. Instead, our government's economic policies have hurt blacks. The government has passed the minimum-wage laws that help white union workers and hurt black teenagers struggling to get their first job. It has passed minimum-wage laws that help whites work and hurt black teenagers struggling to get their first job. It has passed minimum-wage laws that help whites work and hurt black teenagers struggling to get their first job. It has passed minimum-wage laws that help whites work and hurt black teenagers struggling to get their first job.

The problems of blacks in America are very real, but we will not solve them with the failed economic programs. We need a new direction, not handouts, subsidies, and rules, but rather a new direction, not handouts, subsidies, and rules, but rather a new direction, not handouts, subsidies, and rules. We need a new direction.

Over the last twenty years, government programs have helped another to help blacks. In the process, it has taken a proud group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group, but rather a group.

Many of our laws have degraded and divided the black community. We have designed welfare programs that require families to split their income to get more than a fair share. We have done this, but it is not the solution, but part of the problem.

We should remember that the black community is a group, but rather a collection of uniquely gifted individuals, all of whom have special talents to contribute to society. And when we finally admit that blacks can work on their own in America, their creative talents and energies will flow, and they will succeed in this land of freedom and opportunity.

Economics — biotechnology: the aspect of technology concerned with the application of biological and engineering data to problems relating to the design, development, and processing of man and machine.

Weber's Third International Dictionary

One would hope that we are not adapting machinery to the needs of the group, but the vice-versa. If ergonomists are in our home, we have a long way to go.

Consider the new plumbing in the showers at Baker House. The Institute took out the old system, which had separate valves for hot and cold water, in addition to an extra valve on the shower head to control the flow of water. These were good, delivering adequate water pressure. They also had doors that were not closed. But one got the impression that the designer actually showed himself. There were complaints that they were not mounted high enough for tall people, but that was an installation problem, not a design problem.

Then along comes the new "water-saver" system. One's first thought is a jalopy. There is now less water pressure, and one has to use more force to turn on the shower head. The area of the jet is wider, and it is more difficult to reach. Despite this, it is up to the resident to evacuate the shower. It is still sounding at 1:30am Sunday. I received a call.

The problem is that the human factor was taken out of the system. Apparently, we could not be trusted to ring the alarm. I am very grateful that the AutoCall desk is not the best way to handle this.
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The King is not dead! The Editions EG record label has just completed a release of the complete (pre-Warner Brothers) King Crimson catalog. Two previously unavailable discs will make their first US appearance, and, as an extra bonus, the records are being reissued as half-speed mastered audiophile pressings. Here follows a brief overview of the recordings by this pioneering band.

The Court of the Crimson King — This record, one of the most stunning debuts in the history of pop music, single-handedly defined the progressive art-rock genre. From the industrial noise and crashing chords of the opening “21st Century Schizoid Man” to the grandiose codas of the title track, Court is a study in instrumental contrasts, pitting frenetic riffs against chamberlike neo-classical passages. The album is carried by virtuoso performances from Robert Fripp and multi-instrumentalist Ian McDonald. McDonald’s contributions are frequently ignored, thus his departure from the group.

In the Wake of Poseidon — Likely to be Fripp’s attempt to rework Court in his own image once McDonald left the group. Careful scrutiny, however, reveals tighter song structures, cleaner sound, and more relaxed playing. The disc’s chef d’oeuvre, buried at the end of the second side, is “Cat Food,” a jazzy vamp that provides a peak at the band’s considerable improvisational ability.

Lizard — The Jazz from “Cat Food,” extended over a full disc, swings a little less, but makes up for it with icy-cold arrangements and clever lyrics (“Happy Family,” a Beatles break-up allegory). Vocalist Gordon Haskell is completely overshadowed by the guest performance from Yes’ Jon Anderson on “Prince Rupert Awakes.” If only Frip had become Yes’ new guitarist.

Islands — Lacking a distinctive singer and a consistent lineup, Fripp relies on long instrumental workouts. This album contains the last lyric contributions from Peter Sinfield, whose histrionic prose was proving increasingly embarrassing. An often overlooked work, Islands has its moments of brilliance, particularly “Ladies of the Road” and Fripp’s solo during “The Sailor’s Tale.”

Earthbound — Crimson’s first live album, never released statewide due to questionable sound quality, is the only album the band should not have released. The sound is so extended atmospheric, the music is the product of a jaded, disillusioned group. Mute and inaudible are the words of “Groon,” the unreleased B-side from “Cat Food.”

Larks’ Tongues in Aspic — After a year’s hiatus, Fripp assembled a new band, arguably his best ever, featuring vocalist Robert Fripp,ex Yes’ drummer Bill Bruford, percussionist Jamie Muir, and violin/violoncello David Cross. This record marks a change in Crimson’s approach, relying almost completely on the ensemble’s ability to improvise within loosely defined, extended structures. For the most part the approach works; the tracks “Larks’ Tongues in Aspic, Part II” and “Easy Money,” but “Talking Drum” shows the formula still in need of work.

Starless and Bible Black — Bruford was up the slack in the wake of Muir’s departure, a move which lightened — as well as shortened — the arrangements and playing. Crimson successfully attempts a variety of styles, from the wild “Great Deceiver” to the genteel, live improvisation in “Tipp.”

Red — Further attirion reduced Crimson to the essential trio that recorded this swansong, the band’s finest moment on vinyl. The record is fueled on pure power. Fripp’s furious chordal attack, Wetton’s muscular singing and bass playing, and Bruford’s complex drumming. Instrumental coloring is added by former band members, including Ian McDonald, who was on the verge of rejoining the band. Unfortunately, Frip dissolved the band once Red was recorded. King Crimson would be dormant for seven years.

U.S.A. — For its final live performance, King Crimson abandoned all subtlety and turned up the volume, resulting in a Wagnerian-scaled wall of sound. It took this posthumous release to prove this band could play powerful rock and roll.

The Young Persons’ Guide to King Crimson — The omission of “Easy Money,” “21st Century Schizoid Man” makes this a retrospective rather than a greatest hits compilation. What makes it worth buying is the Frip-complied booklet of photos and cadependings, the original version of “Groon,” and the demo of “I Talk to the Wind,” recorded with Fripp and a new line-up.

Almost all these records are worth owning, but in the Court, Larks’ Tongues, and Red remain quintessential Crimson. Long live the King.

David Shaw

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Nation

Kansas theater seeks return of the Jedi — An armed gunman held an Overland park, Kan., movie projectionist hostage for two hours Tuesday as he stole the Glenwood Theaters' print of “Return of the Jedi.” A band of Ewoks is reportedly mounting a rescue operation to retrieve the third film in the “Star Wars” trilogy.

Local

And you wondered why it's called the Harvard Bridge — The two outer lanes of the Harvard Bridge have been closed to all traffic, and the remaining lanes to trucks and buses, after Metropolitan District Commission inspectors discovered cracks in steel pins supporting the structure. MBTA buses running on Massachusetts Avenue are being rerouted over the Boston University bridge.

Urban campers brave 98-degree heat for fireworks show — Dozens of patriots camped for as long as three nights on Boston's Charles River Esplanade last weekend to ensure choice seats for the annual Independence Day festivities. John Williams and the Boston Pops Orchestra performed a rather generous sampling of Williams' movie music, as well as the traditional sing-alongs and 1812 Overture at the Hatch Shell, then the over 150,000 onlookers watched the rockets' red — and white and blue and yellow and green — glare over the river.

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