Bacow Releases Final Report

By Frank Dabek

Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow "72 announced his final report on the future design of MIT's residence system yesterday.

The report calls for incoming freshmen to select residence halls during the summer before their arrival at the Institute, but it preserves the option of dormitory selection during Orientation.

Bacow's report reflects a compromise aimed at garnering the approval of most groups while working through the unpopular decision to require all freshmen to live on campus in 2001. The report includes a final decision on the design of the residence system, on many specific points it presents only guidelines or principles.

Associate Dean Kirk D. Kolenbrander, who led the RSSC, will head up the effort to implement Bacow's design and fill in many of the missing details.

Bacow will present the report to the student body today at 5 p.m. in 3-270.

Final Report

By Naveen Sunkavalli

A year and four months after President Charles M. Vest announced his decision to house all freshmen on campus starting in 2001, the debate on how to best redesign MIT's residence system has drawn to a close. Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 released his final report on the "Design of the Residence System" yesterday.

An examination of the events leading up to Vest's announcement gives an interesting look into the nature of student activism and administrative reaction during that period of time.

Student protest as activism

Vest's announcement initially brought students together to protest in order to reverse his decision. Threatened with extinction of their living environments, students living primarily in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups staged protests to try to reverse Vest's decision. In addition, students distanced themselves in a "Tool-in" to express dissatisfaction. Two teams, The Beaver Dream and The Great American Revolution, won the contest.

The results of an Undergraduate Association poll held in late April, the RSSC released its own preliminary proposal for a "Tool-in" to express dissatisfaction with the administration. In the fall of this year, a group called MIT Choice formed, and the group also staged a tool-in in November attended by about 150 students.

Resident Assistants

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Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow ’72 deserves commendation for his report on the residence system. His decisions show careful thought and analysis and incorporate student undergraduate housing are important features of the present system included in the new recommendations. The elimination of the dangerous “sophomore shuffle” is another positive attribute of Bacow’s report. Bacow’s recommendations, however, do give some reasons for concern. Although the report is meant to be a final decision on the residence system, it fails to present more than guidelines or principles on many specific issues. For example, a better explanation of how dormitory demand will be managed if not enough students pledge, or a formalized capital proposal to fund these changes, are needed. The generous reimbursement policies for graduate students living in FSILGs are another concern—MIT must insure these new benefits do not lead to abuse. The administration must also make sure that rush, which

shallower. Many of these concerns can be addressed through the implementation process. The Dean’s Office must provide impartial and knowledgeable leadership in the implementation of these programs. Students, also, must remain involved in the process through implementation. While this report represents a final decision, the time for student input is not at an end.

Bacow’s report, based largely on student recommendations and feedback, promises positive changes for the MIT student body. Those charged with its implementation must not squander this tremendously valuable opportunity to improve the MIT housing system.

Erratum

In an article about the Undergraduate Association’s allocation of funds ("[UA Allocates Funds Held in Reserve], December, 7”) a quote attributed to UA President Matthew McGann ’00 in reference to building an endowment for student activities should read, “That would require a $50,000 surplus for 100 years.”

The original text misstated the number of years required to accumulate the required funds.

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Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors. Dissests are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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The Virtues Of Uncivil Disobedience

Guest Column
Erik C. Snowberg

A friend of mine once wrote a paper defending terrorism. Somewhere in the midst of its pages, he claimed that his views had been "repulsed" for so long that he had to break down and kick some ass. When I think of that statement, I begin to understand why the protesters of the 2001 decision have occasionally reminded of this line.

Students at MIT are now on the verge of freshening up on campus decision over a year ago, there have been varying levels of distress experienced by various communities and copy- nity. These feelings have led to letter writing campaigns, boycotts and proposals and even the occasional "protest." But the protests are not the only thing that is happening on campus. The members of the MIT community who are engaged in the protests have been variously subdued by others, even by some in this very publication, for their act of vision and not knowing when they are beaten. I must disagree with this sentiment and the protesters and those who have spoken out. That being said, I have to concur with others who say that the protest movement has failed. The difference is that while many feel that the opponents of the 2001 decision white and anti-authoritarian, I believe that they can't change, I don't think that they are protesting for the sake of protesting.

The history of protest shows that although almost everyone is opposed to the decision, the sense of community among those may be lessened by a community, it is often affected by the reactions it faces. The forms of protest, formsknown collectively as "non-violent direct action" have been used by leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X.

Although almost everyone is opposed to the direction of property and other sorts of mayhem caused by protesters, it often accomplishes a lot more than any other sort of protest.

Non-violent direct action would be effective, I am not sure that I would scare many nor direct action is an effective tool. Just to give a few examples, the last time there was a protest at silicone valley, silicon valley started in silicon valley and silicon valley is home to many of the large companies that are opposed to the use of silicon valley in the future. However, protest is the way to do it. Keeping the energy of a crowd: they were bound resources of the administration turned to the protesters some people, it often matters what that is, don't we?). If we are success- ful, what we will be hearing is "I'm an MIT student, and yes, we have "a lot of community" here," and try to tell them. And those who are, I say to you, "you are not special."

You Are Not Special

Bacow Report Destroys Unique Communities

Guest Column
Wally Holland

Chancellor Bacow's report is, after many months, finally on now. According to The Tech, the report went through the Academic Council last week; that is being released today. In which, then, confusing and frustrating. All of the timing of the report is horrific, its content is utterly fan- tastic. But it is not good enough. In my opinion, this is the current, and perhaps the most important, issue. Bacow, I believe, has made the case that "this is a product of a society that gives people their own identity, or to their lives."

In the "Weaknesses of the Current System" section, Bacow writes that the cur- rent system "forces the entire student body to become a de facto extended rush." Bacow demonstrates his knowledge of MIT life by stating the stunning claim that "there's a lot of video streaming, and chat rooms, it should be easy to follow the prospective students to our "darker side" of the residence system by two months, into that relaxed and will continue to do so in the future." Bacow notes the existence, Bacow notes, is the "large number" of students who choose to stick around after they were "protested Unique Communities.

I want to talk about community. As you think about it, why do people say they are special? Because they share common ground. Those many of us who think about it, why do people say they are special? Because they share common ground. Those many of us who say they are special, don't we?). If we are success- ful, what we will be hearing is "I'm an MIT student, and yes, we have "a lot of community" here," and try to tell them. And those who are, I say to you, "you are not special."

2. Community involves some idea of community. I see some community around this campus. We should be able to make the case that MIT students say "I hate how there's no sense of community here," it really doesn't make sense to tell them that there really is a sense of community, they're just not told.

Community exists where people say it does. Go to a neighborhood where everyone says "There's a lot of community here," and try to tell them. "No, you're wrong. I don't see any commu- nity. I mean, I've never really felt a sense of community here," they say. If you are asking them, "Do you think about it, why do people say they are special? Because they share common ground. Those many of us who say they are special, don't we?). If we are success- ful, what we will be hearing is "I'm an MIT student, and yes, we have "a lot of community" here," and try to tell them. And those who are, I say to you, "you are not special."

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Fundamental Theorem of Community

(MIT) which makes it especially difficult for peo-ple, I am not sure... I am thinking a bit about myself, and my community. I have two very real consequences of this, one of which is that I think I'd share with you. Community exists where people say it does, and it doesn't exist where people say it doesn't. Just think about it. Go to a neigh- borhood where everyone says "There's a lot of community here," and try to tell them. "No, you're wrong. I don't see any commu- nity. I mean, I've never really felt a sense of community here," they say. If you are asking them, "Do you think about it, why do people say they are special? Because they share common ground. Those many of us who say they are special, don't we?). If we are success-
Alternative Residence Proposal Had Major Influence on Bacow

History, from Page 1

from MacGregor to Ashdown; it also proposed a "sophomore shuffle" whereby sophomores living in dormitories during the summer would be relocated to develop a more "cohesive" housing system. In Bacow's 1999 report, the sophomore year was divided into three "phases." In the first phase, a "sophomore shuffle" would move sophomores from dormitories to smaller residence halls. In the second phase, the "sophomore shuffle" would continue, and sophomores would be moved from dormitories to residence halls. Finally, in the third phase, a "sophomore shuffle" would occur again, and sophomores would be moved from dormitories to residence halls.

SAC Report Could Mark End Of Theme House System

Reaction, from Page 1

Kolenbrander said he was confident in the plan. "I think we have a plan that will work," he said. "The plan is strong enough to weather any storm." While the report's states that graduate housing is "not a retrenchment ... this is a time for change," it is unclear how the plan will be implemented. Bacow's plan would offer a "much-needed" increase in graduate housing, but it is unclear how the plan will be funded. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years. Bacow's plan would also offer a total of $1 million in new funding for student life and learning by the capital campaign but not for graduate housing. The report does not offer "a plan to outline the capital needs of the system," McClain said. Bacow's plan would offer a "dramatic increase" in the funding available to housemasters by $250 million in capital spending over the next ten years.