8.01 changes cut failures

By Michael Garry

Fewer students are flunking 8.01, after structural changes in the course make it more difficult for students to get away with idling. The changes were made by its instructor, Professor A.P. French.

Professor French said The Tech that replacement of the self-paced system with a more traditional regime of regular quizzes and required problem sets accounts for a reduction in the number of persons flunking the course.

Twenty-three students failed the course last term, less than half the number of the previous year, when fifty failed. The course is taken by approximately five hundred students, virtually all of whom are freshmen grading on a pass-fail basis.

The more traditional approach, French noted, "made students more aware of what was expected." As a result, "the level of mastery of material was better though standards for passing were not raised." French also noted that student morale in the course was improved and this was reflected in good student attendance all term long.

Under the self-paced mode, French stated, in which students were required to pass a certain number of unit tests during the term, tended to "budget time poorly and get too far behind toward the end of the course." He added that a serious restriction made it difficult for freshmen who are not good at self-discipline to "rainfall their period" upon entering MIT and for those less capable of handling a heavy load of material in the self-paced style.

The Historical Collection in the ceil last term was the establishment of a tutor room. It was staffed by teaching assistants and faculty members and was open to students with questions all day during the week. Special problem solving sessions were held there Wednesday evenings.

French said that about one third of the students in the course began to use the tutor room facility and that it probably helped reduce the number that failed. The departures from the self-paced method, French asserted, helped to improve the quality of the section recitations. Under the self-paced mode, he said, "it would likely have been used strictly for the taking of unit tests. When tests were due, "students would have been instructed instructors would "sit around and not feel useful" while test deadlines were handled in the tutor room. That attention which "saturated the students," he said, "was the first step toward adjusting the term's approach, in which test taking was de-emphasized, allowed recitations to concentrate on "discussions of the mat-
ter" and their problems.

"Counseling and helping students find solutions to their problems has been the need for instruction in "problem solving methodology," French said, and the Historical Collection was the "front line of the use of the text, Classical and Modern Methods of Analysis by Ford in place of Advanced Analytical Mechanics. He added that much of the text was" be crit-
ically studied by students for its light treatment of techniques in prob-
lem solving.

French called last term's course, "a tightly knit opera-
tion. A student who fell behind the up-
grading of the course, largely to the efforts of Judith Bostock, the course coordinator. Bostock, he said, "is very helpful. The satisfaction of operation . . . she made sure that students and faculty were generally very happy."

French concluded by saying that, in view of the relative lack of student participation, he anticipated no basic changes for next year.

MIT's photograph album is getting bigger

By Dave Dandford

An effort that began over two years ago as the Historic Display for Jerome Wiesner's presidential inauguration has blossomed into a broad-based visual history of MIT.

Since its creation in December 1971, the MIT Historical Collection, under the direction of Warren Seams, has sought to become both a usable and secure repository for histories, biographies, and other visual documentation of the educational and research activities of the Institute. Building the extensive files of photographs documenting MIT's growth was and is "a very slow, tedious process," according to Seams. "Until recently," he said, "the MIT Historical Collection has kept a low profile because we didn't have the material to service a large demand.

At the present time, however, the collection contains over a quarter million separate photographs. "Those are photographs that have been taken at various times in MIT's history, and the campus dating back to the early years of our chemical engineering curriculum," Seams said.

In addition to the photographs, the Historical Collection also has obtained 119 portraits of MIT presidents and administrators, 82 oils of MIT officers, and 55 portraits of MIT at the Historical Collections.

By Stephen Blatt

The question of military work does not seem to be a factor in student decisions. The number of students supplying for and accepted in A-4 dropped this year, but the number of the late sixties (65 applied in 1967; this dropped to 39 in 1970) but this is at last in part due to the recession of 1969-70, which particularly hurt the electronics industry.

According to Tucker, the participating companies include the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Silver Spring, Western Electric, the Naval Underwater Systems Center in Newport Beach, California, the Electronics Research Institution and Texas Instruments, Inc. In addition, many other companies which have military contracts, "You can't say that a given job is not related to military systems," says Tucker, "if the students choose the companies.

If they do want non-military related work, they won't ask for it.

Foreign students, who comprised 1/3 of the applicants in 1969, form only 1/10 of the applicant pool now. In part, this is due to the nature of the field, "You don't want many foreign students unless they have emigrant visas (and thus, pre-

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In Case of Insomnia -- Mass Transit: The Trend at the End of the Road

By Steven Kaufman

Now -- when the average motorist is facing two to three hours of traffic jams and rising costs -- has been hailed as the time for the resurgence of mass transit.

In fact, public transportation had begun to return to the cities a decade ago, but this summer's troubles began. The important thing will be for federal and local governments. Perhaps this will result in a better service at an acceptable price. There are still some discussions about the feasibility of establishing a residential parking system.

Almost a year ago, The Tech editor Lee Gogos asked, "MIT fraternities are not dying. But are they dying?" At that time, the conclusion was that they were not. Now, according to David Bernstein '74, retiring Chairman of the Interfraternity Conference (IFC), the MIT fraternity system is in even better shape than it was when Gogos wrote about it.

In an interview, Bernstein says, "We are experimenting with new forms of living groups and organizations. The system is expanding and thrives on the enthusiasm of the students. The freshman class is, in fact, the largest one ever attending MIT; full utilization of the academic facilities of the Institute for the first time in the university's history is now underway. MIT's unique facilities, which have been underutilized in the past, are being used by the students. The new housing system in downtown shopping and business districts is also very successful. Two major expansion projects in the future are planned.

The Denver voters have just passed a subsidy to support the construction of a passenger rail line which will also succeed in luring more riders during off-peak hours. There, senior citizens ride free of charge, and riders pay a 50-cent fare on Sundays, and other special programs are being offered.

The Boston Public Transportation System has adopted a new fare structure, and the city has committed $100 million to support the creation of a new rapid transit system in the Northeast. The new system is expected to begin service in 1976. The company has been in operation for one year.

Two major expansion projects in the future are planned. One is a $150 million urban renewal project, and the other is a $200 million rapid transit system. The company has been in operation for one year.

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6-A enrollment booms: more students want Co-op

(Continued from page 1) where the company has offices already (and so, the student, when he returns home, might work for the company).

The history of 6-A dates back to 1907, when the MIT faculty voted to have a cooperative program in EE with the General Electric Company in West Lynn, Massachusetts. But because of a depression at the time, the program did not begin until 1917. The program has been in existence ever since.

Course 6-A is the largest co-op program at MIT, and is a "controlled co-op" as opposed to other schools where, for example, the student and employer do not sign formal agreements or final reports on the student's work. Tucker describes 6-A as "a program which cares about the student. The student has two faculty advisors, his regular Course 6 adviser and a 6-A adviser, who while an MIT professor, has some relationship with the company, through consulting, or being a 6-A graduate himself from the same company."

Tucker also contends that the 6-A student is better off than a regular student in Course 6. He's got some interviewing behind him, he matures more quickly, he has a greater sense of what he is studying, and is much more easily adaptable to leaving school and going to work because of his experience.

Campaign financing

(Continued from page 1) handled. He said antitrust suits, for example, require close cooperation between the White House and the Justice Department.

Birar said he had "hoped in 3 or 4 years the special prosecutor's office would turn into an ombudsman," and that the American people would back such an institution. He regretted that this no longer seemed likely.

In the ensuing discussion, Stewart questioned Birar's position, suggesting that an unbiased long-term special prosecutor might not be possible.

A student rose, saying that America was run by "large corporations and a few very rich people" and so how could the panel guarantee that a return to legality committed a return to popular democracy?

Stewart replied that although he disagreed with the student's premises, he felt that public financing reform would reduce the influence of moneyed interests on campaigns.

Eventually the question of impeachment was directed to the panel, but was passed. "The president has done a lot of wrong things," said Heymann, "and he shouldn't go scot free."

But he felt impeachment might be too severe. "The present procedure is the proper procedure," Birar said, referring to the Judicial investigation.

The Cambridge Forum is sponsored by the Social Responsibility Committee of the First Parish in Cambridge, along with the University Committee of Harvard and Radcliffe. The First Parish is a Unitarian Universalism ("freedom of belief") Church.

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THE TECH

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1974

Page 3

TELEVISION

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Sports

By Glenn Brownstein

MIT's struggling basketball team went down to its seventh straight defeat Friday afternoon, losing to a tall and talented Bates squad, 101-79.

In the second half, Bates built a late lead against MIT and led the Engineers 45-34 at halftime. Bates built an early lead against MIT and led the MIT squad, 101-79.

Jackson '76 played one of his better games this year, despite a nagging knee problem, with 18 points. Joe Sachs '77, first in the second last year, respectively. Although the "A" team lost its players except for Lockwood and Kahn, the "ZOO" squad had all but one winker returning from last years champs, certainly marking them as tournament favorites.

The North Americans were won this year, however by the Harl Yon Tree Hath No Leaves But They Will Out Club, a team from Philadelphia headed by an MIT grad known as Sunilme '69. The final tally showed HYTHNLTWBCO with 104 points, MIT "ZOO" 97, Somerville 92, and MIT "A" 84. Teams eliminated before the finals included Cornell, Toronto, Rwendi, and Ihcada High School among others.

Out of the eighteen pairs competing, the MIT "ZOO" team finished fourth, seventh and eighth while MIT "A" placed third and fifth. The locker was played very well to finish third and Lock-wood and Sachs placed much better than expected. "A" team's Kahn has improved markedly this year and has a 14-12-1 record so far. He is rapidly becoming one of North America's finest players.

MIT, holder of the World's Cup, expects a challenge from HYTHNLTWBCO to be forthcoming.

Tournaments still to be played this year include the pairs and singles championships.

Bates masters MIT; JV's prevail

Senior Ed Hanley (above) picks up a 17-5 superior decision to remain undefeated on the wrestling season at 185. His win helped MIT down U. Conn. 30-14.

Tiddlywinkers are upset

Place second and fourth

The weekend of February 16 and 17 provided MIT sports with what could be considered the biggest upset of the year as neither of Tech's two two-fisted tiddlywinks teams managed to win the North American Championship held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The MIT "ZOO" team, consisting of Bill Bonke '73, Craig Schweinert '72, Dave Alexander '75, The Dutch Indian '74, and Scott Hinch and Dave York was MIT's non-MIT students, and the MIT "A" team, consisting of Open Lockwood '75, Larry Kahn '75, Rick Tucker '74, Pete Cooper '75, Fred Shapiro '74, Joe Sachs '77, first in the second last year, respectively. Although the "A" team lost all its players except for Lockwood and Kahn, the "ZOO" squad had all but one winker returning from last years champs, certainly marking them as tournament favorites.

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