City won’t stop MIT smokers — yet

By Mike McNamee

MIT smokers can relax — at least for a little while.

Despite all the publicity and fuss over the tough anti-smoking ordinance passed by the Cambridge City Council Monday night, MIT officials aren’t in too much of a hurry to stick up “No Smoking” signs and force people to put out their cigarettes, cigars and pipes in classrooms, halls, and dining rooms.

For one thing, Cambridge Mayor Walter Sullivan vowed Tuesday that he would move to put out the ordinance, not yet 24 hours old, repealed as a first step to amending it. Sullivan explained that the ordinance measure, which provides for a fine of $15 to $250 for smoking in a public place — public buildings, class-rooms, auditoriums, restaurants, hospitals, and so forth — was too strict.

Secondly, MIT may not be covered by the ordinance. As a private institution, MIT might not be required to comply with all the provisions of the law, especially those regarding class rooms and dining halls. The signs are being delayed while Institute attorneys consider the matter.

And many MIT officials feel that the whole matter is moot, since the Institute is working now on getting into compliance with a state law which takes effect in less than a month which covers the same ground as the Cambridge ordinance — without the fine.

“We fully expect they’ll change it,” William P. Dickson, director of MIT Phsyical Plant, said. “If they don’t repeal it or change it, then we’ll have to find out what it means to us. And since we’re already working on the state law, it probably won’t be all that different anyway.”

The new law is “in limbo status,” according to Joseph Collins, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Corporation. “We haven’t even got a copy of the ordinance yet. And when | can get a copy, I’m sure the guys will tell me, ‘Don’t worry too much about this, don’t act on it like it’s gospel.”

Even Cambridge’s attorneys are playing down the effects of the sweeping ordinance passed by the Council. Andy Trodden of the Cambridge Law Department said his office wasn’t worried about enacting any-thing yet — “just wait until we see what happens after Monday” when the Council will consider Sullivan’s move to repeal the measure.

But even if MIT doesn’t have to worry about what the city will do to smokers, it does have to consider the state law which (Please turn to page 2)

Fire sparks queries; buildings called safe

By Peter G. Balbus

The fatal fire at Tang Hall this summer has set off a blaze of questions about the safety of other Institute buildings.

The newer Institute houses, such as McCormick, MacGregor, and New House were constructed according to stringent safety codes. And the renovations performed on the older houses (such as Barton and Ashdown) brings these structures up to current standards.

The Institute, however, has a habit of exceeding current safety stipulations whenever possible. Thus, even Barley, often referred to as “MIT’s resident slab” features a complete automatic sprinkler system and other fire safety systems.

Photos by Gordon Haff

Registration day ordeal destined to continue

By Mike McNamee

Many MIT students hate it. It causes crowds, wait, hassles, red tape, and often problems. But despite the problems and despite change in procedure — MIT is planning to keep Registration Day.

“Sure it causes problems, and a lot of people don’t like to go through it,” Royal W. Smith, Associate Registrar, said. “But I’ve got to keep it in focus, and realize that Registration Day gets a lot of things done that would be difficult to do otherwise.”

The two-week ordeal of standing in line in duPont Gymnasium, picking up forms, filing them out and making schedule changes is something few undergraduates like to undergo. And for a while it seemed as if registration day would become outlawed, thanks to a key change in registration procedure.

The Special Committee on Grading recommended, and the faculty adopted, a new registration procedure which eliminates Roll Cards — cards handed out to each student to confirm registration in a subject. With the replacements this year of Roll Cards with non-required Class Cards, the Registration Day lines in duPont seemed to be unnecessary.

But Smith said the Registrar’s Office was not likely to go along with any plans to eliminate Registration Day for the simple reason that it’s the Institute’s way of doing things.

“We just don’t want to see it changed,” he said. “The registration day is in registration — and we handle as many as 200 such changes every semester.”

Smith explained that the Registrar’s Office and duPont as a centralized station for advising students on changes in schedules. “We make two computer runs for new schedules, deal with many students who don’t need to go through the computer, and it’s all done in one day. As a result, we’re able to give students a complete schedule, with new numbers assigned, all by 5 pm on Registration Day.”

“That Registration Day is all about.” (Please turn to page 3)

Life’s minor aggravations: stickers that do not stick

By Stephen Blatt

“If the registration stickers don’t stick, apply some more moisture,” is the manufacturer’s advice on how to solve this term’s problem with the ID card.

In addition to not sticking to ID cards, the registration stickers for the fall term are too long to fit properly on the card and too long in many cases to be used. The words, “invalid unless current registration sticker is affixed above.”

According to Associate Registrar Ronald Smith, this year’s method of printing class cards and registration stickers on one card is, despite the problems, “far more cost-effective” than preparing the packet of comple-tates: roll cards and ID sticker used in previous terms.

“I apologize for this term’s problems,” said Smith. “But the manufacturer had to be applied by hand, thus driving up the cost. This year’s form was printed, cut as much as last year’s form containing the ID sticker and instructions. In addition to printing the ID sticker, other costs in past years in-cluded preparing roll cards and collating the set of forms into a packet.

Despite recent upheavals in the structure of Registration Day, it should be around for a long time in one form or another. — with all its associated aggravations, headaches, and confusions.
MIT smokers granted reprieve

(Continued from page 1)

takes effect Oct. 11. A Physical Plant team headed by Dickson and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Operations Dick Sorenson has been meeting with Institute attorneys to figure out what MIT will have to do to be in compliance with that law.

“We’re trying to find out what exactly it means with regards to a private institution,” Dickson said. “Once we’ve determined that, we’ll move to be in compliance.”

Compliance may mean anything from just posting “No Smoking” signs in elevators to banning smoking in classrooms, the Infirmary and Medical Department, and all the Institute dining halls, Dickson said. But the law “probably” would have little more effect than the fine regulations regarding smoking which MIT is already in compliance with, he said.

“Besides, even if you post the signs and all, who’s going to police it? I’m sure not going to police it,” Dickson said.

Wilson disagreed with the idea that MIT’s private status would exempt it from the state law. “Just because MIT’s a private institution doesn’t mean we can serve up salmonella with the food,” he said. “I don’t think we can serve up allergic reactions with our classes, either.”

At least one person at MIT is unhappy with the delay, however. Professor of Mechanical Engineering David G. Wilson, chairman of MIT Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said he was “delighted” when the ordinance passed, but upset that Sullivan wants to amend it.

“I think the mayor is yielding to some very uninformed opinion,” Wilson, who sponsored the ordinance when it was placed before the Council, said. “The businessmen in the city are upset about it and are pressuring the mayor to weaken the measure.”

And policing is perhaps the major problem with any anti-smoking regulation, John Freina, director of the MIT Safety Office, pointed out. “You’ve got to be reasonable,” Freina said. “When you try to ban smoking outright, often all you do is force people to smoke surreptitiously. If you don’t give them ashtrays, they’ll dispose of their smoking materials some other way, and you end up with a fire hazard. So you’ve got to face realities.”

So MIT smokers can puff in peace, at least until Oct. 11. After that, as Collins said, “MIT plans to be in compliance with the state law” — whatever compliance means.

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New privacy issues explored

The student-faculty Committee on Privacy, formed last fall in the wake of publicity over legislation dealing with privacy of student records, is preparing an interim report to be presented to the faculty this fall.

The committee has been studying the issue of record privacy for members of the MIT staff and junior faculty members, according to Professor Arthur C. Smith of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, chairman of the committee.

"We've agreed to work on a report that will go beyond the issue of the Buckley amendment and student records and will deal with new privacy areas," Smith explained. "The basic question we're considering is do we have the same privacy obligation to protect the privacy of staff and faculty as we have, under law, to students?"

The Buckley amendment is the provision passed by Congress in August, 1974, which required schools and colleges to make personal records on students available to the students' parents, if the student was 18 years old or older, or to the student himself.

Although the act was aimed at elementary schools, abuses of records have to date been hampered by the loss of the two student members, both of whom left the Institute during the summer. "We've been in 'inactive' mode, and we're still recovering from the summer," Smith said, "but I've been pushing to have new students appointed so we can get going again."

Most of the committee's work so far has been concerned with "operations people" who deal with records, getting their opinions on what privacy rules would mean to them. "One of our problems has been a lack of input from the other people - the people whose records the policy will be concerned with," he said. "It's not an issue many people get upset about."

One thing the committee has found, Smith said, is that there are "no gross violations" of privacy at MIT. "I guess that's why people are bothered about the issue," he said. "There aren't any big violations to get upset about."

Most of the committee's concerns, Smith noted, have been with "voluntary actions people" who deal with personal data such as social security numbers, course grades, and student records.

The registration changes proposed by the Grading Committee are limited to the concept of Registration Day "as a time for students to see their advisors." The concept had "strongly supported" the committee had "strongly supported" the concept of Registration Day as a time for students to see their advisors.

Registration Day is used extensively by the Voluntary Action Committee to help students to see their advisors. The committee has been "a time for

(Continued from page 1)

Most of the students making schedule changes are freshmen and sophomores who especially need advice, Smith said. "You get some kid who has got one of those "look only" cards, and he's like a lost sheep a lot of times," he said. "We've suggested they bring kids in for a couple of days afterwards.

Registration Day is also used for getting motor vehicles, collecting address cards - how do they make the students see their advisors. Smith said he could see no objections to doing away with the concept. I think it's probably the only time that many students see their advisors.

"We specifically did not recommend doing away with Registration Day as a time to see advisors," Kaplow said. "The committee regarded that as essential, and we didn't think it would be wise to do away with the concept. I think it's probably the only time that many students see their advisors.

Kaplow said he could see no reason for going through "the onerous mess in aflfairs." If Class Lists and other materials were handed out through advisors, Smith said he saw one major objection - "you can't always count on advisors," he said.

"We have no way of knowing who would actually go to their advisor if we registered that way," Smith explained. "Besides, we also do things like collecting address cards - how do we know whether we'd get them all if we left it to the advisors? I'm not saying faculty advisors wouldn't do all that was necessary," Smith concluded, "but I'd be afraid to trust that kind of system."

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In the long run, the house will rise.

By Michael McNamara

Notes months after the original disclosure of "widespread and massive" illegal intelligence operations by the Central Intelligence Agency, that issue is about to come to a head. Special committees in both houses of Congress are investigating the allegations of CIA domestic spying, and public attention to the activities of intelligence agencies has never been higher. In this process, an old high-school civics lesson is about to be proven true once more:

The Senate is great for flash and show, but count on the House of Representatives when you want serious work done.

The House rarely gets a chance to upstage its flashier fellow-Congressmen in the Senate. The Senate is the place where almost all presidential hopefuls hold court; the Senate is where most of the special committees that conduct investigations are located; the Senate is "where the action is." There are only 100 Senators, two to each state, as opposed to 435 Representatives, one to each state. Covering the Senate is easier and more popular, and Senators are always on hand to make news. So the Senate usually gets the bow and the publicity. But that doesn't mean the House is inactive and lifeless — on the contrary, the House is where most of the legislative work of Congress is done. While some House members desire their reputations as peacemakers, knowing how to get along with others, others are the foremost experts in their fields — experts that pay off when the House members go into conferences with Senators and often emerge the winners. There isn't much flash to the job, but there's action in the House.

The old civics lesson came to mind this week as the Senate Special Committee on Intelligence Activities started its public hearings chaired by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho. The TV news has been full of taped reports showing Barry Goldwater playing with a CIA dart allegedly made to shoot "startin' toxins" to kill enemy agents. CIA Director William Colby and former Director Richard Helms have been shown allowing as how they didn't know why no one had destroyed the CIA's poisons arsenal when ordered to do so. Senators have performed the proper displays of righteous indignation, as popularized by members of the Senate Watergate Committee, as revelations pour forth. It's a great circus, and even better journalism.

Meanwhile, what has the House committee chaired by Rep. Otis Pike, D-N.Y., been doing? Nothing — nothing, that is, except for telling the White House to take a flying leap with President Ford's demand that the committee reopen all the documents it has in its possession. Nothing — except for telling the CIA it is in contempt of Congress for withholding other documents under subpoena. Nothing — except for digging in every imaginable place to find out where the CIA gets its money and where the funds it receives go to.

The House committee, unlike its Senate counterpart, isn't taking its critics' shots — let alone its facial expressions — from the Senate Watergate Committee. That committee was extremely valuable in turning up large amounts of new material on the Watergate scandal and — far more important — exposing the American people to the Watergate evidence, an important piece of public education. It's work was excellent — for the Watergate scandal.

But Church's committee is in another context, and another kind of activity is necessary. The American people don't have to be convinced of CIA infamy and dirty tricks — that piece of public education, it's work was excellent — for the Watergate scandal.

Instead of concentrating on the actual foreign spying. Instead of concentrating on the CIA's management of the Watergate scandal, they demand corrective legislation and reform — the kind of work the Senate Watergate Committee, despite its mandates, never produced. They demand the kind of work^ which Pike's committee is doing. Pike and his fellow Representatives have been looking at what the CIA claims to do best — its usual foreign spying. Instead of concentrating on the agency's look-outs and bad apples within the CIA, the present management admits and disavows — the committee is looking at the CIA's proper role. In the process it has turned up the true weaknesses of the agency — the secret funds, the lack of accountability, the need for tighter control. And in the end, the Pike committee will probably produce legislation for reforming the intelligence community, a task which the Senate committee has been charged with doing but which it will, if it continues as it has gone, probably fail in.

Right now, the Church committee is getting headlines and TV time. But in the end, what's going to count is the reform, not the platform, the charges, not the publicity; the exploration of the country's attitudes towards intelligence and national security, not the revelations; the budgets, not the dart game. And I predict that in the end, we will once again owe a debt of gratitude to the lowly House of Representatives.

Letters to the Tech

Skil Training Phase-out

To the Editor: Your article about AWARE's objection to the phase-out of employee skill training courses makes several valid points that are contrary to my experience as an employee interested in taking one of these courses. This summer I called the Personnel Office to enroll in a shorthand class and was told that this would not be possible. I spoke to the class and was told that this would not be possible either because the current class was filled, so I asked her if I could take a class in the fall. She said that this wouldn't be possible either as all training courses were being phased out in September. She did not suggest that I look elsewhere under the tuition reimbursement plan or mention the possibility of taking a course here if 10 people expressed an interest.

I asked her if she knew why the courses were being eliminated. She said it was just part of the cutbacks taking place throughout the institute; she did not say that there was a lack of interest in the courses. Talking to employees who have taken these courses, I have heard that they were put on waiting lists and that classes were full. Sometimes, of course, employees were unable to attend a class because their supervisors were unwilling to let them go if the office was too busy.

To regard courses at other institutions as a viable alternative seems hopeless to me, for the advantage of taking courses was their convenient location. For less time would be taken out of an employee's day by a walk to Bldg E19 than by traveling to downtown Boston, and many employees cannot attend night classes because of other commitments (for families, etc.).

Maggi Popkin, Secretary, Biology Dept. Sept. 16, 1975

Housemaster Notes

To the Editor: I would like to point out an inaccuracy in your "New House Master Helpful" article in the Sept. 16 Tech. Those of us who played "Risk!" with Jim Williams knew that he was the housemaster, and that, in fact, is the only reason he won.

Jerry Wolpert, Housemaster Sept. 16, 1975
Dorms are safe, Brammer says

(Continued from page 1) modern safety refinements.

Associate Director of the Safety Office Ray Diffley noted that all MIT houses feature automatic sprinkler systems, and a constant effort is made to further the safety of all buildings.

Asked if MIT's houses were indeed safe, Director of Housing and Food Services H. Eugene Brammer replied, "Is any building really safe? What does safe mean?" He continued that "all of the Institute houses meet or exceed current safety standards." No matter how safe the physical structure might be, Brammer noted, no building can be safer than its residents.

Biarnmer noted that traditional "hacking" such as water fights utilizing fire hoses and abusing fire extinguishers and other safety related equipment seriously endangers the safety of house residents, Brammer said.

The use of "zip cords" (multiple plug extension cords), for example, risks the overloading of otherwise adequate electrical circuits, especially when zip cords serve high-power drawing devices such as refrigerators, televisions, and microwave ovens, warned Diffley.

There is a broad program now underway to educate the MIT community about general safety measures, with an emphasis on student housing.

A minor fire at Ashdown last Sunday morning demonstrated the effectiveness of safety equipment when the automatic sprinkler system extinguished what could have become a raging inferno.

Safety is an ongoing concern, stressed Diffley, and as one observer noted, no MIT dorm has ever burned to the ground.

Notes

* 21.523, Cultures and Societies of South America, has a time change. It will meet Tuesdays, 3 to 5:30 in Room 14N-312 instead of Monday and Wednesday, 11 to 12:30. It has now been reclassified as a no-pre-requisite course. Call x3-6953 for information.
* Anyone with experience in MIT writing courses who would like to be a teaching assistant in 21.731 "Writing and Experience" (pay in money or credit) should contact the Writing Program, Room 14E-310, x3-7894.

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Put it all together in Air Force ROTC.
The Campus Police investigated a complaint of two subjects attempting to obtain a “loan” of $40.00 from a newly arrived freshman. The money would be returned to the rightful owner after the receivers made a trip to Boston. The subjects were intercepted on the Harvard Bridge by the Campus Police, who returned the money to the student and warned the disappointed couple to refrain from this practice in the future.

Two local residents of the Canton City were apprehended by the Campus Police carrying a typewriter out of Building 39. The occupants offered an explanation that they were students who had intended to convey the property from one building to another. The involved Officers failed to place much credence in the story and further overheard both the typewriter and the subjects to the local police station where they were booked for Larceny of a typewriter. The machine was returned to the rightful owner.

Two Officers on routine patrol observed an individual pushing a bicycle out of Baker House. The person was questioned by the Officers and failed to come forth with any logical explanation of the recent possession of the bicycle. The situation was terminated by the culprit being arrested for failing to convince the Officers of his legitimate presence in the building.

Residents of the Dorms, particularly in the East Campus, should be aware of persons soliciting magazines from room to room. Reports were received of these solicitors entering unlocked rooms and when they were approached by the occupants they claimed to be selling magazines. Any observations of magazine salespersons should be reported immediately to the Campus Police.

Your attention should be directed to the Information Digest published by the Campus Patrol relating to Assaults – since the opening of the school year members of the Community have been the victims of Assaults relative to the Information Digest.

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Jody Scheckter awaits the start of the 1974 US Grand Prix in his blue Elf Tyrrell car (top). The season is October 5, when he will be facing stiff competition from many drivers, including Tom Pryce in his UOP Shadow (below).

Scheckter advocates race safety

(Continued from page 8)

on speed, track, and car safety. Jody would like to see the cornering speeds much lower, since any accident on a corner would occur at a safer speed. "The new regulations require the car's rear wing to be located 80 cm. further forward than before, but I don't think that this is enough," he said, "cornering speeds will still be much too fast."

On the cars, Jody would like to see a much more complete roll bar around the driver, but he added that this would only be possible by making it mandatory, since the added weight would slow down the car.

Jody feels that the Watkins Glen course is much safer after recent changes, which include a chicane in the middle of the esses, repositioned steel barriers, and the installation of catch fences on several corners. Commenting on the new additions, Jody said that "the new chicane portion of the circuit will offer a new challenge to the drivers, and with the track additions, it will also be much safer."

Last year Jody ran in the International Race Of Champions, which consisted of twelve of the world's top drivers racing identical Chevy Camaros in four races-two on road courses, and two on oval tracks. Finding the oval racing a totally foreign experience, Jody wound up in last place at the end of the series. He has much higher hopes for this year's series, since he feels that he is beginning to understand the art of driving a car at 170 when both of your bumpers are touching another car.

"There are only a few positions left..."

Well, actually not. In fact, The Tech is always looking for new people to complement our staff. Whether your interests lie in writing, sports, photography, or any of our other departments, we're always happy to see you. And now that the term has gotten under way and your schedule has settled down, you've probably found that you have more free time than expected. Working at The Tech is both interesting and rewarding. There are a lot more people to meet at MIT than TA's, and a lot more to learn than 6.011. Stop by any Sunday or Wednesday night at our office (room 483 in the Student Center) and talk with us. There's a lot we can do for each other.
Fall intramural sports start this weekend

By Glenn Brownein

MIT's extensive intramural program gets underway this weekend, as the touch football and soccer seasons begin Saturday, and volleyball starts Sunday evening.

This year's touch football program has attracted 68 teams entered in four league classifications (the fourth, IMage, is a new addition to the program). Competing for the A-league championship this year will be five teams, three of whom returning from last year, and two IMagues which will be joined by 1974 IMague titans Delta Upsilon and the Trojans, comprised primarily of Baker residents.

This weekend, the Trojans and Delta Upsilon kick off the five-week A -league campaign Saturday at 12:00, with the B-SU-EAE game following at 2pm. A- league contest will be played on the Rugby Field (as last year).

Hellenic Athletic Club will begin its defense of its Vincio Cup championship this weekend at IM league action gets underway.

Mits Dzienan '76 in the second. Lowell right fielder Greg Shanley opened the scoring in the first, coming in on a throwing error by Dzienan on shortstop Paul Hamilton's grounder. In the second, with runners on second and third and one out, U-Lose projected Greg Hill to left, scoring third baseman Bob Steward, and then Kevin Moulton hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Tim Newfell. Greg Shanley singled to left, scoring Hill on Wednesday afternoon at Briggs Field.

Lowell Trounces Baseball

By Glenn Brownein

Georgia Tech, 3-1, on the Briggs Field pitch. Although the Engineers had played a better game against Bowdoin, they had little trouble against the weaker Clark eleven.

Fernandez opened the scoring, taking a pass from Okine and sending it into the vacant goal. John 'Nye' then used Fernandez's corner kick and fired it to Okine, who scored his third pre-season goal.

Wednesday added the third MIT score on a second-period rush, dribbling past two Clark defenders to the goal.

Despite the Engineers' untested pitching strength, MIT's offense was more than enough to score the victory. MIT's only run came in the ninth, when right fielder Steve Gavert '79 singled to center with one out.

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