DNA moratorium extended 30 days

By Mark James

Recombinant DNA research at MIT was delayed at least another 30 days by Wednesday's vote of the Cambridge City Council to extend its moratorium on P3 class experiments. The extension was approved to allow the council more time to study the report of the Cambridge Laboratory Experimental Review Board (CLERB), which recommends that such research be permitted in Cambridge under guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and under additional conditions specified by the Board. The report -- and the moratorium -- covers only the P3 class of recombinant DNA research, as classified by the NIH guidelines, and does not cover less hazardous work already under way in Cambridge. Recombinant DNA work involves the insertion of segments of DNA from other species into the DNA normally found in the bacterium E. coli, and the insertion of this hybrid molecule into a host cell of E. coli.

This process makes it possible to easily study specific DNA sequences from many sources, an ability which supporters claim may aid in the treatment of diseases such as cancer. Opponents fear that the newly formed organism may present a health hazard to human beings if it were to escape.

Associate Professor of Biology Philip Sharp told The Tech that this decision would delay his plans to start a P3 experiment. Most of the NIH required certification has been completed, Sharp said, adding that much preliminary work could not be done until he knew when he would be able to begin the experiment.

Cambridge Mayor Alfred Vellucci asked for a 90-day extension of the moratorium, but this proposal was modified to 30 days by amendment. Several councilors expressed the desire (Please turn to page 2).

Next fall: 1000 freshmen

By David B. Koretz and William Lasser

Overcrowding in the Institute housing system will become more severe next fall despite an administration decision to admit the smallest freshman class since 1973.

The Academic Council, meeting on Dec. 14 to consider a report prepared by the Student Affairs Committee, decided to maintain the projected size of the class of 91 at 1000 students. Such an enrollment, Browning estimated, would require 130 additional spaces over the normal capacity of the dormitory system. This fall, Institute House was overcrowded by a total of 96 spaces. There will be relatively few vacancies created in the housing system at the end of the current academic year, due to the small size of the Class of '81 -- only 893 students. This prompted Browning to ask for a reduction in class size; earlier projections had been as high as 1100.

In his report to the Council, Browning recommended "an intermediate strategy of admitting not more than 1000 in 1977 with gradual increases in the following years."

"This sees us through the peak housing demand years of 1977 and 1978," he said. "It accomplishes the enrollment targets set in 1974 -- up about 100 per year for four years to a total of 4536 -- and it buys us time in which the commitment for building new housing could be obtained."

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 told The Tech that the Council's decision would not "smuggle a good deal" on the admissions process. He maintained that similar procedures were used to select any class size between 900 and 1200, and that the confidence that the Council's goal could be met, "plus or minus 25." Any fluctuation in the sizes of various classes had detrimental effects on both the image and the plans to be completed.

(More on page 2)
Cambridge city council delays P3 decision

(Continued from page 1) not to delay researchers more than is necessary to decide if the research will be permitted.

The Board's unanimous report, which received praise from both opponents and proponents of recombinant research, suggests several of its own safeguards to complement those recommended by the NIH, including the following:

- Institutions that wish to do P3 work must prepare a manual of safety precautions and provide special training for all laboratory personnel involved.
- MIT and Harvard Biohazards Committees mandated by the NIH guidelines must include technicians and representatives of the community.
- All experiments of the P3 class must use specially weakened strains of E. coli which have been certified as in the E1.2 class by NIH. The NIH only requires this for some types of P3 work.
- The strains of host bacteria must be screened for purity, and the organisms must be checked after day one to see if they have acquired resistance to antibiotics.
- Institutions must monitor the escape and survival of the host bacteria present in the intestines of laboratory workers are also required.

The report suggests that a Cambridge Recombinant Biosafety Committee (CBC) be set up to oversee compliance with the rules. The CBC, working with the MIT and Harvard Biohazard committees, would review research, conduct site visits to laboratories, and investigate reports of violations.

The report also calls for a city ordinance to require these recommendations, and calls on the city council to recommend to the U.S. Congress that uniform federal guidelines be legislated, so that one system to monitor the health of all recombinant DNA workers be instituted, and that more funding be given to aid research into the safety of the recombinants.

CLEBR was set up last summer at the same time as the City Council passed the initial three-month moratorium, which was extended in October in order to give CLEBR more time to complete its recommendations.

The panel is made up of Cambridge residents, most of whom lacked knowledge of biology before studying the problem. Sharp said that the report showed "remarkable insight" into the issues involved, and added that its release alleviated his cynicism about the ability of laymen to make an important scientific decision.

The report was presented to the public at a special meeting held in the Cambridge City Council chambers Wednesday night. The Council received copies Tuesday night after билет complaints were made Monday by several members of the Council that the public would not see the report before they would.

Associate Professor of Biology Jonathan King, a leader of opponents to this research, declared examined all the report contained "very constructive proposals," but he disagreed with the conclusion that P3 research should be allowed in a populous area such as Cambridge.

CLEBR chairman Daniel J. Hayes asserted that his group had examined all the potential dangers brought to its attention, but that "the scenarios (of danger) don't hold up" when examined.

Crowding to hit 130

(Continued from page 1) operations of the Institute, as- orted Vice-President Constantine S. Simaonides, Secretary of the Academic Council.

Although the Class of '81 decision will relieve the acute problem of an unmanageable housing shortage, he explained, the administration still "wanted a stable class size" — and was not successful.

The Class of '80 had been projected to be 1,100, but only 1,051 freshmen enrolled last term. This reflected a marked drop from the 1,115 of the Class of '79.

Browning noted that the additional overcrowding next year will be felt across the dormitory system, as it was this fall. Among the Institute's twelve dorms, East Campus and Bartos House were the most heavily affected.

The report submitted to the twenty-member Council on Nov. 15 also outlined the possible after
APO admits women in national decision

By Thomas J. Spilka

After a six-year struggle, Alpha Phi Omega, the national service fraternity, voted at their convention in Atlanta last month to delete all gender references in their national by-laws and associated documents. At the same time, the fraternity decided to form a Task Force and National Fund to resist pressures from the federal government on those chapters that do not choose to go coed.

"The sense of the legislation did not permit individual chapters to admit women, although they might be required to do so by the Health, Education and Welfare Department or by their schools," Chuck Funk, '74 national convention delegate from Alpha Chi, the MIT chapter, explained.

HEW had threatened to sue individual chapters under Title IX of the 1974 Education Act if they admitted women, charging that the schools were giving financial and material support to discriminatory organizations.

If HEW had sued the schools, APO would have had to suspend those chapters so affected, because their national policy requires each chapter to be recognized by its national fraternity if coedity hadn't passed," Funk asserted.

Alpha Chi chapter has had women members since 1969, according to Membership Vice President Charlie Dietrich. "Women have held every chapter office since then," he said.

"The fight started in 1970," reported Leonard Tower, Jr. '71. "We tried for equal membership then but ended up proposing a compromise which would have admitted women in a kind of second-class membership." That measure was defeated overwhelmingly.

"In 1972 and 1974, we brought up coedity again at the national convention," Funk said. "We lost in '72 partly because of the shock factor of women trying to become convention delegates.

"In '74, 70 per cent of the convention favored coedification of the bylaws, but it takes three quarters to amend the bylaws. The compromise we reached gave a somewhat fuller role to women but not complete coedity," he concluded.

"Although we, as a chapter, favor full coedity, we are supporting the fight for exemption from Title IX wholeheartedly," Funk concluded.
It’s no fun to be a senior applying to grad school

By Glen Brownstein

This being the first issue of IAP, and since so few of us are around on campus (I’m certainly not), I’m going to dedicate this column to a special group – the seniors. Those of us who have suffered through seven terms or more at MIT deserve special consideration anyway; we’re all all too aware that this is the highest order. Anyway, what I plan to discuss is essentially what I’ve spent the last month or so doing – applying to graduate school.

All of us went through the same tortuous procedure to get into this place – autobiographical essays, letters of recommendation from high school teachers (who liked you), making sure your transcripts went to the right college (don’t laugh – I know someone who went to Colgate instead of Cornell because of such a mix-up), SATs, achievements, interviews, etc.

Now to get out, some of us (exempting the lucky souls who will enter right away from MIT) have to do this whole operation all over again. But for some of us, we won’t actually get into MIT. The pre-law, pre-med, pre-Ph.D., or just plain pre-grad, but those into graduate school is just about as important, though somewhat easier (most of the time). Some of the forms are identical, so naturally the essays are as well, although it’s usually not a good idea to mail out 35 duplicate copies.

The whole thing has become a lot harder. GREs aren’t anything special anymore, transcripts usually go where you send them, and interviews are the same no matter what they’re for, but everything has a lot more importance attached.

Application essays are more important than ever in the average graduate school application. It’s in this area that I feel most vulnerable – pre-meds don’t necessarily have to be brilliantly prosaic, but yours really should be. Help the reader understand who you are, why you want to be there, and what you’re going to bring to the party.

But the most frightening part of applying to grad school is getting those elusive letters of recommendation. In high school, we were all taught that the world was supposed to be interested in what we had to say, but getting the second opinion of 10 or 20 teachers interested in our evaluation of you, “then you’ve felt the nervous tremors as well. Our instructors who know you well as these letters will form an integral part of your evaluation. They all are model students, so it’s going to be an interesting procedure to get into this place.

Tackle the easiest applicants first – for example, number 1977 business school application: “As an individual, what excites you?” Guess it’s the crisp, cool feel of a freshly printed dollar bill. Actual answer might be more enjoyable to explore, but in the long run it’s not too important.

“Why do you want to go there?” The answer should be something like “It’s going to be terrific there.” You can’t answer that in less than 25 words.

“Why do you want to do graduate work?” Again, it’s important. Even the most prosaic of us can probably come up with something that makes us stand out. (“If you want to do something special in the world of mathematics, I’m the person to do it.”)

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Cheaters never prosper

(Continued from page 4)

student member. We were represented by Nancy Wheatley of the Alumni Office, who volunteered to defend us. The instructor was also present as a witness. We did not contest the charges, as it was evident that we had cheated, so there was no need for a fair hearing. Nevertheless, the hearing was quite embarrassing as we attempted to explain how we possibly could have cheated in such an obvious manner. We were surprised to learn that our case wasn't unique. During the past year three cases were brought before the Committee for review, yet we knew nothing about them, and were lulled into a false sense of security. I hope to make it clear to the community that the Committee does exist and views discipline very seriously. The Committee then went into deliberation and decided that "...the infraction (was) of significant gravity to warrant formal probation.

Officially, the Committee had three options: Reprimand, Probation, and Expulsion. A reprimand is imposed in the least severe cases and is placed on the student's Dean's file. Probation carries a notation on the transcript as well as an academic probation imposed for a period determined by the Committee. The notation is removed after two semesters. Reprimands are given only to those who have had no previous cases and are not likely to have another. It is a serious reprimand for the student's Dean's file. Probation means that the 9-10 period will not be available for swimming. For a period defined by the Committee when "...remedial..." is necessary first. Turning to the world of art, Mr. Kolb does not understand are greatly limited. He has been grossly misquoted or Mr. Kolb is attempting to confuse statements with its converse. Whatever the case, Mr. Kolb has put words in my mouth which I did not say. Certainly one can understand an art work and dislike it, but the chances of liking an art work one is studying are greatly reduced. I have no complaint against those who make an informed unfavorable judgment on an art work, but the comments by Roger Kolb and others, and the earlier Commentary by Peter Coffin (The Tech, Nov. 12) to which responded were of the level of "I don't like it; therefore it's junk." That hardly seems to qualify as "informative art criticism," and would seem to fail Mr. Kolb's own definition of artistic sophistication. Mr. Kolb does not even consider the possibility that one may come to understand a work of modern art and then like it — for him the only choice is between "thinking critically" (disapprovingly) and being a "creature of fashion." It is a pity that he has been cut off from all the art of his own case, denying even the possibility that it has any value.

I hope that Mr. Kolb does not discuss a scientific theory or a poem as worthless if it does not appeal to him on first reading. Many of us have found that the most richly rewarding works of art are precisely those which do not reveal their glories on first exposure; some comprehension of them requires from the time of the ancient Egyptians, through Michelangelo, to Henry Moore. It is not possible to come forward bearing a verbal description of a sculpture's virtues for a blind man than it is to describe the glories of Tristan and Isolde to a deaf man who can't read music. There are none so blind as those who refuse to look, Mr. Kolb.

Steven E. Shladover, G December 11, 1976
Kong goes wrong

By Stephen B. Wilk

Hey, what's this Denham fellow got, anyway?

If it's better be good after all this bab- fulo.

—two men outside 'Kong' exhibition

King Kong (1933)

Dino de Laurentiis’ remake of the classic King Kong is without a doubt, one of the most widely publicized motion pictures ever released.

Paramount’s publicity men have played up the big ape in a style that Carl Denham would have been proud of—King Kong's picture appears on posters, caps, T-shirts and iron-ons, inside comic books, and featured in ads for whiskey, sound systems, and video cassettes. With this much coverage, several people will go, if only to see what all the hullabaloo is about.

My first impression of the film is disappointing—what a waste of King Kong! The special effects used in this version are limited to matting (superimposing) shots of the suited ape into scenes before Kong walks on the stage. But the presentation of Kong himself is as even more disappointing. Several vicious police dogs were present, and their fierce snarl blended well with the sound of police holly clubs held in right hands smashing against corresponding left palms. Unfortunately, the evening's low point lay ahead. Dernier, typical of warm-up groups, was mediocre. He, however, kept the crowd somewhat alive for the main attraction of the night.

Aerosmith came out blazing, starting off with "Mama Kin," a raucous, but catchy tune, followed by a collection of songs from their last two albums, "Toys in the Attic" and "Rocks," including their recent hit, "Rats in the Cellar." "Uncle Sal" played "Big Block Rock." They pranced about the stage, spirited and consistently solid, very seldom with Kong not in their midst. A full house goes by before we reach Skull Island, and an excessive amount of time is spent on characterization. The original King Kong was an action-adventure film, cutting swiftly from one scene to the next, not letting the viewer dwell on the incongruities of a love affair between a forty-foot simian and a Hollywood flapper.

Dino de Laurentiis’ King Kong is an engaging way to spend an evening, but it is not the stuff of which legends are made.

They didn't keep a-rollin' all night long

By David B. Koretz

Aerosmith, the arena's favorite punk rockers, came back to the Boston Garden, played to their most loyal fans and left this time, with only a couple of the soldout crowd of over 17,000, mostly teenagers, the earlier set of Saturday night concert goers young and old, and roughly 6,200 for the band's earlier performance.

By Monday night, some concert-goers, while returning home, began to wonder if the influence of alcohol, marihuana, and violence, and what's left of it, is in the air.

The next morning, the Boston Garden announced that the Tuesday night concert would be postponed until Dec. 14 "due to the severe lateness of Steve Tyler, the head singer."

This is according to the Boston Garden by MBTA on the evening of Dec. 14 had good reason to be intimidated by the show of faces on the part of the Boston Police Department. Several traffic, raid policemen stood on every subway platform, keeping crowds in order, confiscating containers of alcoholic beverages from concert-goers young and old, and roughly showing young people about. They determined not to allow a repeat of the night a month earlier.

Naturally, the situation peaked at the North Station and Boston Garden lobbies, where the atmosphere resembled that of an armed camp. Several vicious police dogs were present, and their fierce snarl blended well with the sound of police holly clubs held in right hands smashing against corresponding left palms. Unfortunately, the evening's low point lay ahead.

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The group hit a peak with the popular single "Train Kept A-Rollin' All Night Long," and then left the stage to thunderous applause. Since only an hour had passed, it was generally assumed that it was an intermission of sorts. Aerosmith had been playing hard, and their groups are known to play about two-hour sets.

They soon returned, and went into the title cut from Toys in the Attic. However, it seemed strangely lackluster compared to the band's earlier pyrotechnics.

After taking it through the motions, they left again. This time they did not return.

The house lights went on, and with the realization that the concert had lasted barely 70 minutes came the shock that Aerosmith hadn't even played "Dream On," their all-time most popular song, and certainly their most well-known.

Aerosmith fans had waited over two months for this concert. They bravely long ticket lines, the stifling air of the Boston Garden, and rough, brutal treatment at the hands of the police, along with endless searches for contraband.

I think we deserved something better. One may not, perhaps, blame the Boston Garden for canceling the original concert, or the Boston Police Department for being anxious to prevent a recurrence of violence.

I cannot, however, justify the treatment accorded by Aerosmith to their most loyal fans anywhere. For with success, musical or financial, must come the maturity necessary to be true professionals.

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MIT Alumni and current or former MIT graduates numbered only fifteen, but included three All-Americans and four current or former MIT alumni numbered only fifteen, but included three All-Americans.

Jeff Baerman '76 flew in from Chicago to pick up victories in the mile (4:25.8) and 1000 yard (2:23.8). Joe Egan. The squad's depth, however, more than made up for a weak Alumni-Varsity indoor track team's third place in the fourth annual alumni meet. Alumnus-James Wilson '73 in the mile and Jimmy Banks '77 in the 600 yard.

The Alumni team members collected two Alumni winning relays, including a third in the mile and Jimmy Banks '77 in the 600 yard.

The Alumni team members collected two Alumni winning relays, including a third in the mile and Jimmy Banks '77 in the 600 yard.
From D-League intramurals to varsity teams, from football played under the warm sun of September to rugby played in the snows of November, over 2000 students were involved in athletics last fall. The majority participated in intramurals — primarily football, soccer, and volleyball. In addition over 400 participated in intercollegiate sports as members of one of the nine varsity, four J.V., club or fall practice teams.

The highlights of the fall season was the Women’s Volleyball team’s victory in the Eastern Championships. Varsity cross-country also did well, posting a 7-1 record and capturing fourth place in the Codfish Bowl.

Despite the large number of students in intercollegiate competition more than 1500 students who played intramurals were as enthusiastic about their sports as the varsity athletes were about theirs. The LCA-SAE ‘A’ League football final played on a swampy rugby field was as serious an athletic contest as any intercollegiate match. Even D-League football games frequently turned into hard fought battles. Regardless of the level of participation, the spirit of competition remained.