UAP, UAVP will still run as a ticket

By David R. Koretz

The General Assembly of the Undergraduate Association voted Tuesday night to continue the current practice of having UAP and UAVP candidates run together as a slate. A set of proposed bylaws for the Undergraduate Association presented to the representatives of the GA included a provision for splitting the ticket, while still enabling candidates to run in tandem if they so wished.

The GA was swayed by UAP candidates Marty Herman '79 and Peter Burke '80, and by former UAP Secretary Walman '73, all of whom spoke against the proposal. Walman maintained that the measure would "kill" any progress towards effective student government which the UAP and UAVP have achieved in recent years.

After the ticket-splitting provision was dropped, the bylaws were approved unanimously. The bylaws replace the previous set, which were last before the GA was reinaugurated last year.

By Mark James

Students reacted to recent proposals on grade deflations by questioning the intentions of the MIT grading system at an open grading forum held Wednesday.

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The faculty members explained that they felt that the large numbers of A's being given out in recent years limit the ability of professors to differentiate different levels of performance and make it difficult for graduate students and potential employers to evaluate students' abilities.

Several students complained that a lowering of grades would result in unfair grades being given out — failure, competent, and excellent.

Howard Schrobe G and Committee member Assistant Professor of Physics Thomas Grcytak '62 debated whether grades should be used to separate students into different classes by performance.

Shrobe proposed a system in which only three grades are given out — failure, competent, and excellent.

The Committee has proposed several alternatives for lowering grades. Most students at the forum did not offer opinions on these options, but instead argued that grades should not be lowered in any manner.

The "packaging" terminology, as contained in Committee Chairman Professor of Management Zeron S. Zanettos' reference to the faculty meeting a week ago to students as "products and services," made many students liken it to the proposed bylaw which the Committee's intention, would not take responsibility for "unfair flowers." Many students were concerned that the measure would "kill" any progress towards effective student government which the UAP and UAVP have achieved in recent years.

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A look at student activities

Over the years many students have noted that a degree should be offered for "Course 26" — extracurricular activities at MIT. The choices vary widely, from model railroading to skydiving, including the quieter crafts such as pottery-making. Thousands of students are involved each year in all of the student activities centered around the fourth floor of the student center, throughout Walker Memorial, and scattered around Building 20.

Whether getting together for a Saturday afternoon game of chess or for an Institute-wide tournament, what matters is that it is fun. Some students apply their technical knowledge and skills to a hobby that occupies their free time. Others spend their spare time working with one of the service groups — Alpha Phi Omega and the Technology Community Association. The TCA silkscreens are a traditional part of every Kaleidoscope weekend (just a little over a month away).

Whatever the activity, nearly every student involved with one will come to the same realization sometime during the academic year: MIT activities take up all of your spare time — and a little bit more.
Viewing the cable

TV right for classes?

By Kent Plimlen
Editor's note: This is the third installment in a series examining the MIT cable system.

Videotaping of lectures for presentation on the MIT cable is a frequently mentioned alternative to the overcrowding of lecture halls. How feasible is such a suggestion?

Professor of Materials Science Roy Kaplan, chairman of the Video Management Group, explained that before this could be considered, provisions would have to be made so that all students would have accessibility to cable monitors, and the costs would have to be justified by the educational benefits expected.

One of the classes specifically mentioned in the early reports to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the organization which funded the installation of the cable, was 3.991, Introduction to Solid State Chemistry. The plan was to use this class as a proving ground for the cable's video instruction capabilities.

"It was a custom in the past, and may be in the future, to run review sessions (over the cable) on Fridays," Professor of Chemistry George Brandenburg explained. Because of the low cable usage on Fridays, "talk-master" style of reviews, "the faculty members feel that the students would lose a great deal because of the impersonal approach.

He indicated his concern that students would no longer feel a need to attend lectures, noting that he prefers to lecture to a live audience.

Professor Rose voiced similar objections to taped lectures. "That's for the birds. I don't believe in that because there's a 'human electricity' that you generate."

Rose emphasized the need of an instructor to be able to measure the response of his students. If some are not catching on, "It's fast because of the weather or because it's the Monday after Thanksgiving," the instructor must be able to recognize this and compensate by adjusting the group's speed. "At MIT I've been teaching for 16 years," said Rose, "I know what I'm talking about."

"With," the other hand, argues that although different problems are involved in teaching via the cable, it could still be done. "If the student wants to learn the subject matter, he will — in class or on the screen."

"It is believed to have been used in the teaching can be accomplished by machine-aided techniques," said Kaplan, "although different problems are involved."

Professor Rose attributed the problems that arose in teaching the cable review sessions to a lack of facilities for interactive viewing. "If you think about the places that have cable TV outlets," Rose said, "there are few of them with comfortable enough of a telephone."

"Would it be more efficient to completely replace large lectures with taped ones aired regularly over the cable?"

Assistant Professor of Physics George Brandenburg, a lecturer for 3.992, believes that taped lectures are not the answer. "And I know what I'm talking about."

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Students may suffer from Carter actions

By William Lasser

It may be just a case of paranoia, but college students are beginning to feel harried by the new Carter administration. First, the President slashed National Direct Student Loans (NDSL) from his fiscal year 1978 budget; then the Secretary of Education made matters worse, he suggested that students not be given draft deferals if the selective service system were revived. The Congress will apparently ignore Carter's advice and appropriate the money for loans. Besides, Carter has been in a series of Presidents who have attempted to kill the NDSL program — President Ford's budget included no money for loan aid. The draft plan might be more serious, however, and taken together, these two presidential actions demonstrate a disturbing trend.

The draft plan which has been tossed around by some prominent government officials involves mandatory service for all young men. Isolate plans include men as well as women in armed services or in some other form of public service. The latter might include such organizations as conservation corps and groups to clean up the cities. The merits of the plan, its supporters insist, are obvious. The volunteer army, they claim, is not work-

Here and now

Writing part of bigger problem

By David B. Koretz

This is the second segment of a two-part Perspectives. Part I dealt with the history of the Writing Program and of the present crisis.

The problem of Humanities at MIT and at technical institutions in general is an old one, but it has been brought to light again by the imminent demise of the Pilot Writing Program.

The current plan of the Department of Humanities involves a four-fold program of writing courses without the emphasis on student-centered teaching that was the primary concern of the three-year-old Pilot Program.

Accordingly as a result of pressure from faculty within the department and from certain members of the administration, Harold Hashman and Donald Blackmer, Dean and Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, respectively, as well as Bruce Mazlish, head of the Department of Humanities, have once again sought the support which they gave the program in its early years.

Without the support and budget of the department, the Writing Program is near its end. With proponents of the student-centered teaching methods — Professors Sanford Kaye and Joseph Brown — out of the way after this year, the Institute will likely be unable to implement a curriculum open to students and educators throughout the country. For the second time in two years, the administration will have abolished a program that had been hard-fought for and generally acknowledged to be effective but that was in conflict with the traditional doctrines of MIT education. The first was the Department of Philosophy, merged with the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics to form the new Department of Philosophy and Linguistics.

SIX YEARS AGO Professor Richard Cartwright, head of the Philosophy section in the Department of Humanities, won faculty approval for an undergraduate degree in philosophy and Corporation approval for the formation of a new Department of Philosophy.

Opponents of the move feared that the new department would attract persons interested in philosophy professionally rather than educators aiming to impart philosophy as a facet of the humanities.

Cartwright deserts charges that the segregation of the section into a department would isolate communication between C'sciplines. Opponents also maintained that departmental status would provide faculty members with higher esteem among professional colleagues.

In January 1976 the Tech reported that the merger with the Linguistics department was in the planning stages. Cartwright publicly offered no resistance to the end of the independence he had once so avidly sought.

Now, the early proponents of the Writing Program have similarly given up. Where does that leave the humanities at MIT?

Here at the Institute, as at every technical institution, the question of properly educating students in the humanities is a prevalent one. Under the guidelines of the curriculum established in 1974, a student can easily graduate with almost no background in the humanities.

Clearly this situation is undesirable, but so was the curriculum required before the changes in 1974. The older requirements restricted underclassmen in their alternatives, but it turned that history and literature were included in each student's program.

The administration won't risk the situation with its recent cuts. The courses offered in the Writing Program were popular, serving several hundred students each term. More and more students return to social sciences such as economics to fulfill the humanities requirements.

Student-centered teaching, as evidenced by the turnover for writing classes, is the best way to interest students in humanities. Until the administration and the School of Humanities and Social Science come to this conclusion, humanities will continue to take a very distant back seat to technology here.
Preserve MIT writing

To the Editor:

I would like to encourage all people interested in the preservation of the writing program, and especially student-centered teaching at MIT, to change the direction of their efforts from simply attacking the administration, to proposing and pursuing a productive course of action. The only way anything will be accomplished is if we work together for our common goals.

Two issues have been discussed: is the administration being honest (and will we stand for it if it isn't), and will there continue to stop licking our wounds and start preparing for the future. If no proposals for action are forthcoming, let's not endanger healing the rift that has been opened by alienating those who give it necessary support. If the issues of good faith on both sides are to be heard, let the accused respond. In conclusion, it's time for us to stop licking our wounds and start preparing for the future. If no proposals for action are introduced, and a dialogue with the administration be established.

In discussions at two student meetings to "save the Writing Program" showed that the top priority of those present was to maintain and foster student-centered teaching. This could either be done outside or within the structure. Discussion at the two student meetings to "save the Writing Program" showed that the top priority of those present was to an open forum. Or at least on the news pages of our newspapers. Peter Fiekowsky??

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Preserve MIT

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La Bohème dramatic

**La Bohème**, an opera in four acts by Giacomo Puccini, presented by the Boston Opera Company: Friday, March 25 at 8pm and Sunday: March 27 at 3pm at the Opera House Theatre.

By William Lesser

La Bohème is perhaps the perfect opera. Giacomo Puccini's music places him among the great Romantic composers, but it is his theatrical sense, his flair for the dramatic, which makes this tragic love story the premiere example of the power of opera.

The Boston Opera Company has produced a Bohème which shines above all the opera as superb musical theatre. Unlike the recent television broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York, this production does not rest on the laurels of brilliant singing. Lacking the presence of Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scotto, Artistic Director Sarah Caldwell has emphasized the libretto over the musical score, acting over singing. Keeping with this approach, the opera is performed in English.

**La Bohème** is the story of the tragic love of Rodolfo (Jack Trussel) and Mimi (Magdalena Falewicz), a pianist. She and her equally impoverished friend, the poet Colline (John Guare), will open a four week engagement of William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice, presented by the Boston Shakespeare Company, at the Haig Auditorium, Boston University, and in perfectly with the tone of the overall production.

The first act awakens the spirit of Rodolfo and Mimi, and their tender duets in the final act, have far to suffer in comparison with the Metropolitan production. But the group numbers, notably among the Bohemian artists, were far more lively and interesting than the Met's. The orchestra was strong and vivacious, perfectly suited to her role. Holgate, who starred in the Broadway production of 1776, has a powerful voice and is a fine actor. He won first place in the Met Auditions, and his training in the musical theatre fit perfectly with the tone of the overall production.

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MIT looks back on a season past

By Gary S. Engelston

So you think that spring is here and summer is on the way. But look outside and that notion is dashed to bits. The sports season has not quite ended just yet.

Baseball, tennis, crew and several other warm-weather sports begin their spring training or competition seasons now or over spring break. The baseball team is going to Florida, for the spring break, to train as the professionals train. The crew teams are out on the Charles nearly every morning, and as the weather gets better, the number of shells out on the river will increase. But now, in between regular seasons, is a good time to look back on the season past.

Hockey is a real winter sport, played here outdoors in Briggs Arena where the cold biting winds of winter can really get to the players. Despite their discomfort the seniors turned in an amazing record of 11-7-1. Don't think that season total; the club was working against the stigma of not having had a winning season in over a decade.

Meanwhile, in a sport normally thought of as a summer pastime, the men's swim team sent five people to the Nationals at Oberlin College of Ohio. Sending them there was an accomplishment in itself, but the swimmers didn't stop there. No, they returned to the Institute with three new All-Americans and three new school records. Freshman John Dickey broke two records in the Nationals and more here at home, continuing to the excellent season in the water for MIT.

Both men's and women's fencing have good memories of past season just past. Having an exceptionally good season was Judy Austin '77, a co-captain of the women's fencing team. This year she became the first MIT woman ever to qualify for the Nationals. Everyone expects her to do well in the competition, which is coming up in April. While Austin was being qualified for the Nationals, the men's team was fighting its way to the finals in the New England championship, With a suspendable effort, the team took the tourney for the eighth year in a row. Junior Mark Smith, who finished second during the regular season, turned in a first-place finish in half in the Easterns the next week.

This time, Dave Schuller '77 was handing the pilot's torch to a virgin. Team captain Schuller is member of the squad which shot the new National Air Pistol team record. He was also instrumental in the victory the team turned in at the Eastern Nationals, held here.

Track is often considered an outdoor sport, but during the winter the team moves into Rockwell Cage and down in stuff. This year they did it particularly well, turning in a record with only one lose. Sensational Frank Richardson and Richard Okne and Fred Ward Below '77 were all instrumental in the fantastic season. Richardson has been called the best distance runner MIT has ever had.

Antonia Brigo

Frederick Sigurdson, M.D. (Continued from page 4)

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Music of the Ancient Regime

Symphonies, Concertos, Sonatas, and Galant Music: French, Italian, and Spanish. March 25 at 8:30 p.m. at Early Music Week, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. 305-5000.

Jill R. E. Boucher

Mass. auto insurance, explained.

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New York, N.Y.
By Tom Curtis

When MIT's baseball team opened their season against the last few winter snowstorms, the MIT baseball team has spent the last few weeks practicing indoors, practicing in Rockwell Cage.

After graduating four starters last year, Coach Francis Ireland's team is rebuilding, trying to fill the gaps. The starting seven is seven, the veteran of Mike Royal '76, last year's ace pitcher who has recorded more wins than anyone else in the MIT history.

Tryout of 79's Royal spot are Ken Smith '77 and Pete Steinhagen '79. Smith, last year's number one starter, will be the varsity starting pitcher for his fourth year on the mound for the Beavers. In his second year, returns with an excellent 8-1 record.

In the hitting, the Beavers will rely on captain Dan Sundberg '77. Sundberg, in his fourth year, is the team's power hitter and will provide those long home runs that can turn a game around.

In the infield, Sundberg, formen a catcher, has switched positions with last year's first baseman Joe Krahnos '79. At shortstop, Bob Markert '78 will be starting this year for the first time. Coach O'Brien has not picked a starting second baseman.

In the outfield, the team has only one returning starter, Jay Cooprrider '79. Cooprrider, however, is injured and a doubtful starter this year. Steve Garverick '79 and Kevin Holland '79 are in starting outfield positions for the first time.

The Beavers open the season next week with their annual trip to Florida, where they will play in the Sanford Baseball Classic. On the return trip, the team will play Jackson University and Methodist College of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The Beavers return home the Monday after Spring break to play Massachusetts Maritime Academy at 7pm. The second and third weeks of the schedule should be the toughest with away games Wednesday at Tufts, Thursday at Boston College, Saturday at Bowdoin, and a home game against the visiting Monday against Braden's.

MIT competes in the Greater Boston League of Massachusetts. The defending champion, Tufts, and NCAA Division I schools Boston College, Harvard, and Northeastern. The Beavers will try to improve on last year's 14-11 record (3-5 in GLBL) and repeat their feat of 1974, receiving a bid to the NCAA Division II and III playoffs.

However, the going will be tough. Only time can tell if they will succeed.

By Leo Bonnell

Lee Bonnell '77 is a member of the varsity golf team.

After a very successful 5-2 fall season, one of its best in recent years, the varsity golf team will be heading south soon on a seven-day trip over spring vacation.

The golfers are fortunate to be able to practice and play on some of the finest courses in the south during that week. Current plans call for the team to stop first in Savannah, Ga., where they will spend two days in competition against Armstrong State College.

During that week, current plans call for the team to stop first in Savannah, Ga., where they will spend two days in competition against Armstrong State College. On the way back to Boston, the team will also play at the Scio Island Country Club in Brunswick, Ga., not far from Jimmy Carter's non-famous summer home. This course, rated in the nation's top 50, is one of the most challenging to be found anywhere.

While in Florida, the linksmen will be guests of the Florida In- stitute of Technology in Melbourne. As in past years, the Engineers will practice and compete for four days against FIT and other local colleges on several of the fine courses nearby, including Adenaity Country Club.

Team members selected by Coach Barry are on the trip are include veterans Robert Kneeland '77, Lee Bonnell '77, Mark Swenson '78, Mark Hughes '79, Mike Varrell '79 and Lee Suna '79, as well as newcomers Jaime Dorenbush '78, Doug Wegner '79 and Mike Mendelson '80. The in- spired play of the newcomers last fall means that a spot for the veterans in the starting seven is by no means assured. Both Wegner and Dorenbush were in the top five, competing in the New England's in October. Also, the improved play of several of the JV golfers must be considered, notably that of Mike Mendelson who won his last fall JV match on the first sudden-death hole.

Prospects appear excellent for a fourth consecutive winning year for the Engineers, as well as for a strong showing in the Greater Boston League in April. The first home match will be on Monday, April 11, against Suffield and Clark.

By Audrey Greenhill

Last Sunday, on a day more suited to skating than to sailing, the MIT sailing team topped a field of five schools in its first regatta of the spring season.

The wins was a combined effort of varsity, freshmen and women's divisions. Five races were sailed at Harvard in Interclub dinghies. Barbara Belt '77 and Sally Honned '78 co-skipped to win low-point honors in the women's division. As co-skippers, seniors Chris Berg, Bill Critt, Chris Donnelly and Steve Ryan took fourth place in the varsity division with only three points separating them from second. Freshman Dave Nelson with crew Tom Clauson '80 placed second in his division.

Tomorrow and Sunday the vars will be the defending the Boston Dinghy Club Cup in the 47th NISSA Spring Invitational at Coast Guard. There will be twenty-one schools competing, including some from the Pacific Coast and the South. The freshmen sail Sunday in an invitational at Harvard.