Faculty begins debate on grading

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

REPORT TO THE FACULTY
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GRADING

MARCH 15, 1978

Drew Friery
(Student Representative)
Thomas J. Greytak
James R. Melcher
William R. Siebert
Zenon S. Zannetos

By Jordana Hollander

The Ad Hoc faculty committee report on grading was presented for discussion at Wednesday's faculty meeting, but no definite conclusions were reached.

Professor of Management
Zenon Zannetos, chairman of the Committee, opened discussion with background remarks on his committee's three proposals. He stressed that the committee was a "creature of the faculty" and functioned only to present information to the faculty for their consideration.

Zannetos said that despite discrepancies in grading policy, a "universal faith in grades" existed. The purpose of the committee's proposals, according to Zannetos, was to provide more information about a student's performance than the letter grade alone provides.

Placing a grade distribution on students' transcripts and making available letters of commendation for five percent of each class raised faculty objections on the grounds that these measures would adversely affect both student and student-faculty relationship.

Assistant Professor of Humanities Sherri Turkle, chairman of the Committee on Student Environment, contended that the proposals would increase tension for students. Professor Emeritus of Biology Bernard Gould called the proposals self-destructive and counter productive and said that the grade distributions "penalize" other students by measuring them against others.

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Faculty discussion

(Continued from page 11)

transcripts would result in placing more students in "slots of lesser importance" by sorting them through a "finer sieve." The primary objection of the faculty to letters of commendation was that they would result in what Turtle called "the rush to the front of the lecture hall," an attempt by some students to curry favor with the professor. King pointed out that if the letters were intended to indicate students' excellence in a class, the five percent figure is unrealistic because 80 to 90 percent of every class excels in some manner.

A more general doubt voiced was whether the grading system needs clarifying. Several professors noted that the proposals seemed more concerned with giving information to outside groups such as graduate schools and employers rather than providing additional information to those within the Institute. Others countered that meaningful grades are of major importance and set as a type of "currency" for students.

Provost Walter A. Rosenblith called the discussion part of the "existential problem of the faculty" concerning classified advertising.

Sam & Jerry's Bar & Bistro formerly Tech Square bar and sushi now located near campus. 783 Main Street, Corner Windsor. Walk in and appoint.

classified advertising

The Boston Globe. The Eiger to the Matterhorn on foot. Two and three week backpacking expeditions amongst the jagged and breathtaking wild flowers of Cornor Windsor. Walk in and appoint.

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CHAPLAIN EVENTS FOR

THE HOLY WEEK 1978

To complete the annual observance of Lent, a time of prayer and rediscovery of Jesus Christ, the following services will be held in the MIT Chapel.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

8 p.m. a celebration of the Sacrament of Penance in the MIT Chapel. The rite will include a time for private confession for those who desire it.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

The Lutheran-Episcopal Service of Holy Communion at 5:05 in the MIT Chapel.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

A preparation for the solemn reception of the Last Supper, 5:05 in the MIT Chapel.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Catholic Church at 8 p.m. MIT Chapel.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 24

A noon service, Lutheran-Episcopal, in chapel 12-1 p.m.

The Catholic Liturgy of Good Friday 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in the MIT Chapel.

THE EASTER VIGIL

Beginning 11 p.m. Saturday evening outside the MIT Chapel. The ancient Christian tradition of anticipating the dawn of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY

The beginning of the Easter Season Catholic Masses at 9:15 and 12:15 only.

Plaque foliage: Palm, not fern

Yes, Mr. Folsom, our "founder's" bust is adorned by a palm leaf (order Palmae — the type of "currency" of trees). Arnold is it then? — research shows that some member of the order Palmae is present. Our "founder's" bust is adorned by a palm leaf.

The UA Nominations Committee has been, and at 8pm for the cable TV policy meeting.

The MIT Student Financial Aid Office is mailing a memorandum to all students concerning Federal types of support. Enclosed with the memorandum is a form which, by

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between life and death

Give! - Today is your last chance!

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The UA Nominations Committee was scheduled to hold a meeting on March 400 of the Student Center at 1 pm for the annual observance of Lent, a time of prayer and rediscovery of Jesus Christ, the following services will be held in the MIT Chapel.

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World

Israel seizes Lebanon zone — Israel ended its raid into Lebanon Wednesday but said it will occupy the border area. The 17-hour attack, ended earlier this week, is part of a US-backed military strategy to take military action to keep the waterway open. Treaty opponent former California Governor Ronald Reagan acknowledged his side lost a battle but not the war. He said he thought some senators who voted against yesterday may return to the next treaty (which could turn the canal over to Panama in the year 2000) since they see how their constituents react. Reagan accused the White House of buying votes in return for beneficial legislation for particular states. Reagan noted that the Carter administration now supports a farm bill it used to oppose and the federal government is buying copper that it does not need from one senator's state. Fluorocarbon aerosols banned — Aerosol products containing fluorocarbons as propellants will be barred from the market after April 1, 1979, under new regulations issued by the FDA, EPA, and Consumer Product Safety Commission. The regulations prohibit production of the cans after December 15, 1978. Apart from storing color film at temperatures near freezing, permanently preserving exact hues and tints. Because Dr. Charles 1h of the University of Delaware has developed a project into "reading" bits of the human genetic code. If human genes are indeed working inside mouse cells, it would be a major advance in the solutions to world problems. MIT's strength lies in its consistent and proven ability to analyze, understand, attack and solve "real-life" problems of government and industry, and its ability to pass on these methods of insight and understanding to its students. Students who lack the experience to determine what is of importance in the real world can gain this experience from many of the faculty members who are closely involved with outside activities.

Science

Man-Mouse hybrid created — A group of scientists from Maine, Pennsylvania, and Geneva are about to announce that they have created the first man-mouse hybrids. The researchers are confident that the experiment was a success, but await word on whether the mouse cells are making any use of the information. Human genes are indeed working inside mouse cells, it would be the first time that the cells of lower creatures have been coaxed into "reading" bits of the human genetic code.

Three new color films developed — Dr. Charles 1h of the University of Delaware has developed a project into "reading" bits of the human genetic code. If human genes are indeed working inside mouse cells, it would be a major advance in the solutions to world problems. MIT's strength lies in its consistent and proven ability to analyze, understand, attack and solve "real-life" problems of government and industry, and its ability to pass on these methods of insight and understanding to its students.

Students — Work at Home During Spring Vacation

and earn $5.00/hour to conduct research (8 to 40 hours) in these cities for a materials recycling study.

By Henry Florentia

MIT is a demanding place with a reputation for bright students and leading faculty, from which the nation has come to expect major advances in the solutions to world problems. MIT's strength lies in its consistent and proven ability to analyze, understand, attack and solve "real-life" problems of government and industry, and its ability to pass on these methods of insight and understanding to its students. Students who lack the experience to determine what is of importance in the real world can gain this experience from many of the faculty members who are closely involved with outside activities.

Professor of Materials Science August Witt is well known to students in 3.091 as both an interesting lecturer and a NASA researcher involved with the Optimized Space Modular Processing Project (under the Skylab project). Witt said that "students should not be divorced from the problems of the outside world. I will deliberately go out and involve myself in areas that outside interests are working in order to familiarize myself with them, to educate me as well as to enrich the problems of the real world. Isolation of academics from the outside world is very bad for the students." According to Witt, this is a view that most faculty members hold and which the administration has encouraged.

Many members of the MIT community have become associated with leaders of the Federal government. The current Science advisor to President Carter, Professor of Earth and Planetary Science Frank Press, is one of many such examples. Professor of Electrical Engineering Jack P. Ruiua, Senior Control Science and Technology, spends two or three days per week in Washington, serving as an Institute Professor the rest of the time. Ruiua also noted the Institute's heavy involvement with industry and government. Ruiua, who has served on numerous government committees and organizations such as the General Advisory Committee for Arms Control and the National Science Foundation, said that faculty members here "are more involved with national and international affairs than at any other school. What is displayed in the classroom is not purely academic. We in faculty must ask ourselves, 'Where does this material fit into the outside world?'

According to Witt, "MIT is in a fortunate situation, having both an excellent faculty and student body. We, and large, the faculty see the students as a challenge. Another important thing is the responsibilities and demands which the students place on themselves. This puts a lot of pressure on the students, but in a way that is good. MIT without pressure would not be MIT. MIT is a way of doing things, a method. The pressure is part of the process. Ruiua, who has taught at Brown University as well as the University of Illinois, says that the selectivity of the faculty and student body is "winning the war" is much greater here than anywhere else, although he also notes that most of the pressure at MIT is self-imposed.

Witt also agrees that the student pressure feeds upon itself and that this, coupled with the common attraction of excellent faculty and students creates a form of "mutual feedback" that should help to keep MIT ater, aggressive and prepared to attack
Stop the presses! Billy Beer is here

By Bob Wasserman

I was just sitting back to the right sipping on a few Billy Beers trying to turn out some stuff, when the entire Cambridge police force drove into my den with sirens blaring. But, no, it was just my 300-oz. beer keg, which I was professoring from 1-10 a.m.

Wait a minute, a wait a minute, this column is beginning to sound like 

not to be surprised if after a few years Billy Carter comes out with his King of Beer Drinkers.

to coast. I guess I'll have to convert to a style that's something else.

Don't be surprised if after a few years Billy Carter comes out with his King of Beer Drinkers.

I'm not Hunter Thompson. I'll try again.

When the story came in, Mr. Bradlee called me into his office. "Was-""You bet, Ben", I quickly replied. "I don't know what to tell you can handle it!"

I don't know what to tell you can handle it!

Mr. Bradlee, "We've had a few Billy Beers."

Bob Wasserman's thoughtful editorial of March 14 raises the familiar question, "Why is MIT concerned with installing an art gallery?" mit students and professors should understand that interest. Something about the theory of social engendered by the theory of social psychology.

The third reason is by no means limited to this campus, having originated long before the Lichtenstein phenomenon. It is that the individual whose principal interest is math or science loses much or at least some of his human potential by trying to pursue that interest. Something about poring over problem sets or reading chapters in isolated labs night after night acts to dehumanize one. The antidote: art.

art lacks large following

We'll be to discuss the latest proposal of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading in an informal atmosphere, and also to discuss methods of increasing student and faculty interest in the educational policy making process. Among the proposals we would like to discuss are (1) publicizing and making open to the public any commit-
Edgerton lecture a flash of brilliance

By David Shaw

Professor David "Doc" Edgerton delivered a lecture on the topic "Uses of Strobe Lights" on Monday, March 17 in 10-250. The lecture followed the recent opening of an exhibition entitled "Edgerton's Stroboscopic Projects", which is still showing in the Compton Gallery. "Doc" Edgerton is the inventor of the strobe photography, and is considered to be the foremost authority on the subject. In the lecture he had told of his work with synchronous motors as an undergraduate in 1928. He had used a strobe to view the motion, but when Charles Stark Draper told him that there was another use for it, he decided to apply the strobe to photography.

The lecture consisted of a presentation of slides of some of Edgerton's photos, with "Doc" providing a running commentary and some humor. One of his first photos was a cup of coffee shattering as it hit the ground. He did not recommend that students try to take a similar picture because if the cup is dropped correctly, "it spouts up and makes a mess on your ceiling." When a slide was shown of a bullet cutting a card in half he explained: "People are always asking me to title my photos, but this one is "The best way to cut a card!" He kept the technical aspects of the subject to a minimum without oversimplifying the techniques required for strobe photography, including things as the underwater photography that Bob Rines is using in the search for the Loch Ness monster, and also Edgerton and Rines became the subjects of the comic strip Donnershy. "Doc"'s photos have also appeared in Scientific American and Technology Review. One of his photos (which he considered a failure) is now on display in the Museum of Modern Art. An Edgerton strobe sits on top of the Museum in London, and has been operating since its installation eight years ago. "Doc" also showed two movies that were made by associates of his. The first movie was on elapsed time sequence of marine life on the sea bottom. When a segment showed fish swimming, he added: "I tried to get them to spell out MIT, but I think they knew better." The other film was a slow motion sequence of bats catching insects in flight, which was made with the help of "that fine institution up the river."

As a conclusion to a fine lecture, "Doc" encouraged any interested students to visit the Strobe Alley, and then invited the audience to join him in the Compton Gallery.

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Anouilh's Antigone

Tragedy with a message

By Jean Anouilh

Jean Anouilh's Antigone is the first non- Shakespeare play to be introduced into the Boston Shakespeare Company's already thriving repertoire season. It has been described as a "contemporary tragedy of personal destiny and individual freedom," and the BSC's performance conveys the play's message with clarity.

Anouilh based his Antigone on Sophocles' tragedy of Antigone, and will about 410 B.C. In Sophocles' play, as in Anouilh's, the message is conveyed in the confrontation between Antigone, Oedipus' daughter, and Creon, king of Thebes. As a conclusion to a fine lecture, "Doc" encouraged any interested students to visit the Strobe Alley, and then invited the audience to join him in the Compton Gallery.

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Now comes Miller time.
By Jeanette M. Wing

(Editors note: Jeanette M. Wing '78 is a member of the women's varsity fencing team.)

Although they entered with a 12-5 dual match record for the season, the MIT women's varsity fencing team placed a disappointing eighth out of eighteen teams in the New England's held at Boston College on Sunday. The junior varsity squad fared superbly however, and came in second in their event.

The eighteen schools were split into two pools of nine teams each, all struggling to get to the final pool of ten teams. MIT squeezed into the finals by placing sixth in its pool made up of the nine New England Women's Intercollegiate Fencing Association (NEWIFA) members. Of these MIT beat URI, Western Connecticut, and Wellesley (won on indicators); Brandeis, Wellesley, Radcliffe, and RIC, and lost only to Yale. Morton Stein '80, fencing first for J.V., with only one defeat, was seeded first for the J.V. individuals. Nancy Robinson '81, fencing second with only two defeats, entered the individuals.

The New England Women's Intercollegiate Fencing Association (NEWIFA) is composed of the top fencers each year. The J.V. members, on the other hand, are included on the basis of the MIT women's J.V. fencers without the top fencers. These New England women's teams were seeded first and second accordingly.

The MIT J.V. team, consisting of Captain Michelle Prettyman '81, Cath, and Julia Shimokawa '80, came in second in pool one by six touches. Their total bout scores tied with the top fencer of '79 missed entering the final pool and '78 won 5 total bouts: Capuchin; and lost to Brandeis, Wellesley, and Yale. Of the final pool MIT beat Brandeis, Wellesley, Radcliffe, and RIC, and lost only to Yale. Morton Stein '80, fencing first for J.V., with only one defeat, was seeded first for the J.V. individuals. Nancy Robinson '81, fencing second with only two defeats, entered the individuals.

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The Ice Rink: a lot of old memories

By Gordon Haff

For several weeks posters advertising "Bring Anna's last game" had been hanging on various bulletin boards around the Institute. The game was between this year's Club team and Club alumni teamed with the ill-fated Varsity, which disbanded three years ago. It was to have been held two weeks ago today.

Unfortunately, a snowstorm changed a Friday game which might have drawn a fair crowd into a Sunday game with fewer than a dozen spectators. While the lack of a crowd could certainly have been in part attributed to the distance possibility that this would not be the last game played on the rink, it is still an interesting reflection of the appeal of sports at MIT. The lack of any sort of desire to see what could be the last game ever on the old rink is quite unusual, though not unique.

Perhaps this is due to the fact that not many MIT people have ever seen a varsity hockey game and most of those who have played IM hockey on the rink never took it seriously enough to care.

The present ice rink was dedicated on February 20, 1954, over 22 years ago. It was intended as a temporary rink which had "sufficient area for Future possible covering and expansion" according to The Tech September 18, 1954. The President wasn't the only one who was pleased. Ben Martin, the Beaver hockey coach, saw the rink as little less than a godsend according to a February, 1955 The Tech. The hockey team seemed to agree. They beat UNH 9-2 in their first game on the new rink and prompted a The Tech sport writer to write: "Playing on their own rink, the red-hot Beavers were in a vastly improved team from the squad that lost six games during December and January." All of this brings us to the following question: Where are we now and where do we go from here? The first part is relatively easy to answer, though the answer is in some ways not particularly pleasant.

The 23 year old "temporary" facility is vastly overloaded and its cooling system and other facilities deteriorate more rapidly every year. An Athletic Department Publication, "A New Athletics Facility and Special Events Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology" gives the following figures for participations in 1974-75:

- General Skating.............. 12,700
- Intramural games............ 1,900
- Intercollegiate games and practice............. 8,650
- Physical education courses for academic credit.......... 1,200
- Other......................... 1,000
- Total......................... 27,650

Since 1974-75, these figures have doubled or tripled considerably.

This hockey season provided a textbook example of the problems of an outdoor rink. Warm fall weather and blizzards in January destroyed countless hours of ice time.

Where do we go from here? Plans are presently being drawn up for the new athletic complex which will include an indoor ice rink, open from October to March. When Prof. Ross Smith, Director of Athletics, was asked why the rink wouldn't be open year round, he responded that it would be economically unfeasible and wouldn't really fit in well with the idea of the new complex being used as a major events center.

Money, and a lot of it, is all that now stands in the way of construction of the new center. The present construction figure is on the order of $7.8 million, according to Smith and is being driven skyward at a rate of $500,000 per month by inflation. When asked how long construction would take once it get started, Smith said that he was hopeful that it would only ruin one hockey season.

Anyone who has played on MIT's ice in the dead of winter can easily recall the biting, Siberian winds which have a way of blowing off the Charles in the winter. Frozen toes and fingers and the noise of ice skates against the rink floor being heard everywhere.

The lights were appropriately dim as the varsity-alumni hockey game was played March 5. This game may have been the final one played in the outdoor rink before the beginning of construction of an indoor complex.

The Theta Chi team celebrates after its 1871 A-league hockey victory. Theta Chi is one of the teams which have won consecutive A-league championships. Most recently, Metallurgy has accomplished this feat by winning the title both this year and last year.

Gary Was G., a former member of the Club team, quaffs some brew by Gordon Haff)