Johnson expounds on protest

Official statement details policy

(Ed. note: the following is the text of the statement issued Wednesday by President Howard W. Johnson.)

By the President

"What do I think about protest by students on the presence of recruiters at MIT?"

Picketing of governmental and corporate recruiting activities on the university campus has become a major way by which student protestors choose to draw attention to their views on current national policy in Viet Nam. I understand that process and would be disappointed if our students did not have an opportunity to express their views in a manner compatible with the regulations of membership in the Institute community. It is a principle of the Institute's policy, provide, and protect an environment where dissent is possible. I hope that visitors to our campus will understand this.

On the other hand, it is important that such protest not become violent or interfere with or limit the reasonable rights of others in the process. A second principle of the university is that members of our community should have a right to free expression and information. We would be disappointed if any interest in such occupational information on the part of students were not present on our campus, and we have a responsibility to permit such access.

I am well aware that questions as to the appropriateness of some applications of these principles should be opened to discussion by students and faculty. But the way to consider such matters is not by the kind of discussion appropriate to our open community and not by denying or damaging the rights of others. To infringe the rights of others is to impair the environment in which both work information and ideas, inflicts grievous damage on the integrity and the long-run quality of the academic community.

Finally, let me say, the university should not be put into the position of forcing meet on the part of people who abuse the privileges of the academic community. We have to rely on the good sense and self-discipline of all of our members. I believe we can do so at MIT.

C EP to vote soon

Pass-fail freshman year receives faculty attention

By Mark Bollman

The most significant change in the structure of the freshman plan to be considered since 1961 is the possible introduction of pass-fail grades in any course.

Professor Walter Rosenblith, Chairman of the CEP, told The Tech Tuesday that the CEP is considering a proposal that would allow the Pass-Fail class to vote on adopting the plan. The CEP must consider these proposals and all variations of them. As a result, it could reject any and all changes.

It is more likely, however, that the CEP will make some recommendations to the Faculty, which in turn could accept or reject the change. The CEP may modify the Faculty only by declaring it "null and void." (Please turn to Page 12)

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Balloons float in Blgd 7 as part of art exhibit

By Mike Ventura

Two of the six foot balloons float above the fans in the lobby at the first Annual Sculpture exhibit in the Hayden Gallery. (See story on page 11.)

The Tech wishes to apologize for publishing Herb Finger's article "Chairman of Beaver Key is at head of issue" (April 19). The Tech realizes that any misquoting of Mr. Finger's statements to the effect that "he considered the Scholarship Committee a 'source of fraud to the system" is unjustifiable. No more violations of that nature will be made.

President Howard Johnson issues personal apology to The Tech Wednesday night prior to the public view of the administration policy regarding picketing of governmental and corporate recruiters on campus. He said the university's basic principles of the right to dissent and the right to free access of information.

Harvard differences

He said that he succeeded in writing the statement as an anonymous personal opinion, not as a number of personal opinions asked of him recently in the wake of student picketing across the country. The fact that Harvard placed 71 students on the picket line against the Dow Chemical Corporation recruiter probably initiated the letter, he said.

Re-affirms rights of all participants

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