Kivasild dismisses Mathis; Incomm to elect next chairman

By Tom Piyal

"The following report has the approval of dispensing with facts and clarifying matters relating to the appearance of Muhammad Ali at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on April 10, 1966. Neereas conflicting reports, and fabulous rumors have surrounded the rightful and truthful facts concerning this incident, I shall elicosse with painstaking exactitude the facts concerning the said person."

With this statement, UAP Maria Kivasild '69 began an eight-page report which she delivered to the Institute Committee on Judicial Affairs Friday morning. The report was intended to present to the Incomm the circumstances surrounding the recent firing of Mark Mathis '69 from his post as chairman of the Community Forum Committees.

About two weeks ago, a member of the Tech Forum contacted Mathis and asked him if he would be interested in having Mathis speak on campus as a speaker. Due to the current interest in social problems, the fund will have twelve trustees, some students, to handle the situation from the faculty. The fund has recently failed at a faculty tax. John W. Contem, secretary of the fund, will continue its work for four years before a permanent decision is made on whether to continue it or not.

Professor Alan Lazarus and Dr. Benson Boyer were those speaking in favor of the proposal. Among those speaking in opposition was Professor Richard Douglass, head of Course X, who spoke before the senate. The Humanities department already gives a subsidy grant to the fund. Also, the senate voted to appoint a committee to study the matter.

In another section, the faculty voted to pass a resolution that the MIT Community Service Fund should be a separate social service work in the community.

Buttern, Hagen comment

Pass-fail offers fresh new opportunities

By Barry Sixx

"Academic risk" should become a way of life for the class of 1970 if pass-fail works properly, according to Mr. Peter Buttner, executive officer of the Freshman Advisory Council. In an interview with The Tech, Buttner explained that students often do not take a course in which they are unsure of their abilities if they feel that they might receive a low grade. In the case of freshmen, it is particularly important that they examine the many academic alternatives open to them, without anxiety about a low grade. He added that freshmen pass-fail enable students to gain a better idea of their interest and abilities.

One major problem which must be faced next year is that of improving the communication between faculty and students, according to Buttner. Under the current plan, both the student and the instructor will prepare a written evaluation of the student's work during the term, which the student will then examine with the help of his counselor. This procedure will be followed at the end of the year and again at the end of the term. Buttner, William Borgen, head of the Committee to Educational Policy task force which studied the problem, indicated that under the pass-fail system, the faculty will become more interested in evaluating the student subjectively and qualitatively. In order to facilitate more careful evaluation of student progress, each subject will be assigned a "closer liaison." The Department of Humanities hopes to reach this goal by next year.

Mark Mathis '69 and UAP Maria Kivasild '69 were antagonists of the Incomm meeting Sunday.

Mathis thought it would be an excellent idea and began making the necessary arrangements. But due to series of coincidences, he was unable to inform Mathis of the fact until Monday, April 11, only four days before the scheduled time of the lecture. Because of the near failure of the Drew Pearson Lecter, Mathis had instanced Mathis that there should be a "closer liaison."