The Tech

Earth Day judges ecology

By Alex Makowski, Leo Giguer, and Jim Powell

Five to six hundred pro-esters packed the Student Center on Earth Day, Governor Sargent 39 and three select panels discuss environmental problems.

Speakers considered technological, social, and political aspects of the critical ecological issues. Earth Day here was part of a societal movement that focuses attention on the need for prompt action to protect the environment.

Sargent Speech

Sargent's afternoon address cited an opinion that we are going to win... our fight for survival and asked the help of everyone, especially the young, in working to save the environment. The creation of an environmental control council was high upon his list of priorities. The council, he said, would receive concurrent damage to the environment and be empowered to act on it. He added that the council members would also be empowered to set up a youth task on any environmental question. Over 150 young people, he stated, had already inquired about joining; "They will not only contribute much, but will demand much." New environmental sub-officer Sargent also spoke of "the creating of a new ethic." "We must seek to change our attitude toward the environment," he said. "No one used to care, but now everyone cares." Earlier in his speech he had said, "I only hope that it (Earth Day)

GA votes quorum change

By Bruce Ports

The General Assembly found itself adjourned at 10 pm Tuesday night after spending over an hour with an attempt to pass the quorum from one quarter to one half of all membership.

Only three members were on hand to pass the amendment to quorum 16-12, thereby voting themselves out of a quorum. Paul Sooher '71, author of the amendment, said they would pass it and had it in his pocket. The amendment had to help the agenda to the end so that other business could be conducted with a quorum present. UAVF Steve Ehrman, however, expressed doubt that the amendment could be passed.

The vote of the representatives could pass a motion but would not be able to make a quorum as long as enough people present to consider it.

Effect of change

Ehrman later stated that, in his opinion, the change would not affect member attendance but, instead, would decrease attendance (if the Assembly has to adjourn every meeting of a lump). In this case, Ehrman feared that the executive committee would have to change the quorum motions in order to live the regular meetings and attract attendance.

Student Center policy

In other business, the assembly elected John Gunther '72 chairman of the Student Center Committee. Gunther, a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences, worked on the SCC statement of principles and would not provide meeting place for NAC/TDA or RLSDS. He also expressed support for the stormy discussion with repre- sentatives of Peggy Hopper '71 on theasis of the Student Center Committee to discriminate against certain political groups in the assignment of facilities.

Later in the meeting, Andy Gilchrist '71 proposed that the SCC be centered for its state- ment of April 9 and not allow room for RLSDS. Although a 16-14 vote brought the matter up for consideration, it was delayed by "motions and automaticlly putting it on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Clean-up support

The rally to protest the ban on rallies in the city of Cambridge came off without violence Wednesday afternoon, despite a police threat to "clear the area in 10 minutes" if the crowd did not disperse.

After the dispersal order was given on the other hand, people who had gathered left the scene, Cambridge City Hall, and headed slowly for home. At the time the police made their announce- ment, the rally was virtually over anyway.

Police provocation?

Indeed, the police order was superfluous and potentially proactive, as the crowd was making preparations to leave as the motivation wasn't go away in a few weeks.

During his speech, Sargent reviewed some of the programs he had worked on for environmental improvement and constitutional amendment guaranteeing a "right to a clean and decent environment." A new law was one that allowed for citizen-suits to prevent environmental damage. Other programs were: legislation to take steps to control auto pollution, tightening oil spill laws, place new limits on the sulfur content of fuel, completely ban the use of DDT, and halt highway con- struction that does not take the environment into consideration or ignores the solution of trans- portation problems through mass transit.

The evening session of the ecology teach-in devoted to technological prospects of controlling pollution led off with Assistant Secretary of Com- merce Kenneth Davis, Jr., calling for a restructure of restructuring priorities and methods. As proof of the need for social action, Davis, an MIT graduate of the ME department, cited the fact (Please turn to page 3)

Demonstrators violate Cambridge rally ban

By Harvey Baker

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