Letters to The Tech

(Continued from page 4)

is the justification for the pro-
posal of the Staff Administra-
tion Committee, the proposal is
misguided. It follows from what
has been said that the Commit-
tee should instead propose the
formation of a "panel for the
reasonable discussion of migued
political action."

Deterrence. This answer to the
question of the moral justifi-
cation for the proposals of the
Staff-Administration Committee
says that punishment is meted
out to safe-guard the community
from further acts of the same
kind either by the person(s) in
question or others who might act
in the same way. We often
enough say we are a community
dedicated to setting a high moral
example, particularly to our stu-
dents. If we resort to punishing
those who act out of a desire to
do good, we fail to practice what
we preach. The example we are
thereby setting (that is, what we
are saying by imposing punish-
ment) is that people should sub-
jure high ideals and moral con-
cerns and submit to our greater
force. We ask them to forget their
atriums and knuckle under
to our threat. We are asking
them to act in their self-interest
against the dictates of their
moral conscience. Since it is
immoral of us to coerce others
to choose self-interest over what
they believe to be morally right,
I conclude there is no justifica-
tion for using punishment on
selfishly-motivated people.
Moreover, in connection with
self-interest we address ourselves
not to the guilty but to those
who have committed no offense
to date, to those about whom we
can only have suspicions.
Accordingly, our example is also
what we take both the innocent
and the guilty to be incapable of
responding to reason and to ap-
peals to conscience, and to be
more properly dealt with by
methods used to control the
behavior of animals.
I note finally that the above
arguments apply equally well in
the case of the students who
were disciplined for their part in
demonstrations and in the occu-
pation of President Johnson's
office, and I urge on this basis
that their punishment be re-
sinded.

Jerrold J. Katz
Professor of Philosophy

Gradeless Jr. class

By Dave delBrookart

MIT's honorary societies are
facing a dilemma regarding the
Class of '72, which has been
graded only one term so far.
Since selection of members is
based on candidates' cumulative
averages, the two societies, Tau
Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma, have
been left with less substantial
choices. If we resort to punishing
by Prof. Carl Sagan, Cornell

APOLLO
Perry v. N.C.W.C.

PI i C

Cosmology

INTERACTIVE LECTURES

Cosmology by Prof. Philip Morrison, MIT

Implications of the Apollo 11 Lunar Material by Dr. John A. Wood, Smithsonian Observatory

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Experiments on the Origin of Life by Prof. Carl Sagan, Cornell

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