N.O.W. legislation: jury duty, equal rights

By Margo Levine

At a recent meeting of the Eastern Massachusetts chapter of the National Organization of Women, legislation sponsored by the group was discussed. The meeting, held at MIT, was sponsored by the Political Science Department.

Margaret Douglass-Hamilton, legal counsel for the group and member of the Governor’s Committee on the Status of Women, led the discussion. Bills before the current Legislature include one concerning jury duty. By its very nature the present Massachusetts law causes women to be virtually excluded from juries. This view is supported by statistics of jury service. For example, in Arlington out of 720 people serving on juries, 320 were women. In Adams a similar absence of women is reported. Lexington did only slightly better with 1 woman serving along with 265 men. The proposed bill aims at eliminating the existing bill which makes it difficult for women to serve on juries.

Another N.O.W. sponsored bill of major concern deals with limiting the sentences of women prisoners. The amendment of the current sentencing provision would be virtually excluded. Limiting the sentences of women would make the matter simple – a woman need only file a notice of intent and pay a small fee of one dollar.

Besides these bills, N.O.W. is also introducing an Equal Rights Amendment as well as a bill which would provide tax deductions for child care for working parents. The organization is also continuing its work for abortion rights. The concern about money to finance an education is not a major problem for a pre-med student says Professor Gould. He maintains that “good” medical schools will finance the education of any pre-med student who proves that he is qualified academically.

Within the near future the Office of Preprofessional Advising and Education will distribute to the community a handbook on pre-med at MIT. It will include all updated information on what pre-med is, who to see when problems arise and will hopefully dispel all myths about pre-med.

Grads to pick Corp. member

By Norman Sandler

As well as recent graduates of the Classes of ’70 and ’71 will soon begin their roles to a position on the MIT Corporation, the Institute’s Board of Trustees. A committee of five members of the Corporation will make appointments; the members will be nominated by the Corporation.

A committee of five members of the Corporation’s youngest members, three of whom will be from the screening committee, will create members of the Representatives of Recent Classes category.

A Corporation members serving on the screening committee this year are Ralph M. Davison (’60), James A. Chasey (’63), Lawrence Stech (’71), Michael V. Sawyer (’71), and Dr. James A. Heeter (’69).

In discussing this year’s nominating process Davison, Chairman of the screening committee, states that “All nominees must have received an MIT degree since January 1, 1970, or expect to receive one before December 31, 1972.”

Davison also added that the screening committee is now soliciting letters for support regarding potential candidates. The five members of the screening committee will be limited to those candidates who are not accepted usually attend graduate school anyway but to specialize in another field besides medicine.

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