Holloman claims decline in MIT cost to parents

By Tom Binney

According to a paper recently prepared for the MIT administration, the cost of an MIT education considered as a percentage of a family's income has declined considerably over the past 20 years.

The report, prepared by Professor Herbert J. Holloman and his wife, Dr. Ellen R. Holloman, plodded through various student costs as a percentage of average family income from 1948 to the end of fiscal year 1971.

The figures on gross family income used in the analysis are for families whose head's age is 35 to 44 years or 45 to 54 years, since these are the Census Bureau categories which best represent the income of families which contain college age students. In addition to the main report also contained analysis of the first and third quartiles.

Student expense categories which were considered as follows: tuition for two terms, total student budget which includes tuition, room and board, medical fees, books and incidentals, all from student Financial Aid Office estimates, and finally, total student budget minus average financial aid (scholarships and loans).

Tuition has commanded a relatively constant percentage of family income over the past 20 years for families in the median income range. However, for families at the first and third quartiles, tuition has fallen from 33% to 28% of the family income to 20% in 1970.

The primary causes for the drop in percentage of income would seem to be the increased availability of financial aid and the slower growth rate in total student costs aside from tuition in comparison to the growth rate of family income.

Perhaps the entire report is best clarified by considering that although student costs have grown geometrically, at a slightly faster rate, from 1961 to 1970.

The Holloman paper seems to indicate that today's parents, especially in economic status, will better be able to afford an MIT education for his child than was his counterpart 20 years ago.

Due to its limited nature, this study has admittedly omitted several features which might have affected its findings considerably. In particular, there was no consideration given for the size in state and local taxes, and the uneven distribution of financial aid.

Institute considers new child care plan

By Ken Davis

A university is far more than just an institute of education; it is a community as well. This is illustrated well by the MIT child care program.

There are currently five MIT sponsored child care facilities operating, and another is under consideration. The five are:

1. The Technology Nursery School, an independent corporation, which serves 90 children during the fall and spring terms, and 30 during the summer. Tuition is $6.01 per hour. The institute provides space, maintenance and utilities.
2. The Family Day Care Program, which serves 60 children in the MIT community in caring for children in their homes. Volunteers assist the parents and teach the children various basic skills. The major weakness of this program is that many of the participants live in apartments.
3. The Common Room Nursery, which serves 50 children from a small number of its 60 children taken by MIT employers. The

Shannon wins Harvey for information theory

Professor of Electrical Engineering Claude E. Shannon became one of the first two men to receive a Harvey Prize from the American Society for Technologists Institute of Technology.

The Harvey Prize bears the name of Leo M. Harvey of Los Angeles prominent leader of the American Technologic Society and former Board Chairman of Harvey Aluminum. Inc. The prize fund was established by a gift of 5 million from the Leo P. Harvey Foundation in L.A. to the American Technologic Society in 1971. Each year it carries a cash award of $35,000.

The fund will be used in perpetuity to make annual awards in one or more fields: Science and Technology, Human Health, Literature of Profound Insight into the Mores and Life of the Professors of the Middle East, and the Advancement of Peace in the Middle East. During this, the first year of their existence, the Harvey Prizes are being awarded in the categories of Science and Technology and in Human Health.

Shannon is considered the founder of information theory. In 1948 he gave a precise and quantitative mathematical definition of the concept of information. The theory was found to have fundamental importance and, when applied to the fields of semantics, comparative linguistics, cryptography, and computer design, it yielded a wealth of new correlations and data.

He initially conceived his ideas for limited applications to the technical and engineering aspects of communications systems. However, he had developed a tool of utmost flexibility and utility for the investigation of communications in its broadest sense.

MIT employment plan undergoes revision

By Mike McNamara

A new review of MIT's hiring practices in relation to minorities will begin in late October, according to James J. Houlihan, Administrative Assistant to the Personnel and James C. Allison, Assistant to the President and Chancellor for Minorities Affairs. The new plan is a revision of MIT's old Affirmative Action Plan, filed with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1969. Due to the Institute's role as a federal contractor, all hiring in academic, administrative, and service fields comes under review by HEW, to see that it complies with federal laws on minority hiring. The new plan is part of this process. Most of the public emphasis has been on the addition of minorities and women to the faculty and the academic ranks. The new AA plan was developed with each department setting goals for hiring in its field, based on estimates of the number of qualified candidates. These departmental plans were sent to the Committee on Minority Affairs, which composed the entire report. The main change in faculty hiring is at the department level. When a specific new appointment is made, the department chairman certifies that a thorough search was made for a qualified woman or minority member of the faculty.

The original goal, set in 1970 when there were 17 women and eight blacks on the faculty, including visiting professors, was to have 30 blacks in professorial ranks, resident and visiting, by 1974. At present, there are 13 blacks (projected figure of 18 for this time), and 33 women (projected figure of 40) on the faculty. Also, offers were made to about 30 other minority applicants who chose not to come to MIT.

"This is not a quotas system, and the long-term effects of standards implied," said Callahan. "We just want to guarantee that blacks and women are counted out from the start. He stressed that the de- pendants developed their own goals, using their own estimates of the number of qualified members of minorities in the field. "This has allowed emphasis on Affirmative Action at the departmental level, making the process a part of the success of the process.

Allison, when interviewed, pointed out the less-publicized part of Affirmative Action - the administrative and service hiring plans. He felt one of the most successful fields had been construction hiring. "We started going to the contractors and their subcontractors back in 1969, even before AA, to ensure that there were hiring standards when qualified people were available. We got some staff, but on the whole, we've been very successful with this." The Harvey effort, said Professor Benson Snyder, Chairman of the Equal Opportunity Committee, "will be a move open and a better Institute for everyone -- all will benefit."