Fifty fresh flunk 8.01; late finals to be offered

By Ken Davis

The MIT Police Department reported that 50 out of approximately 500 students, mostly freshmen, failed 8.01 this past term. The number was one of the highest in the past several years.

"Last year, over 160 CPs were given. Last year, over 160 CPs were given," said Professor A.F. French, head of the Physics Department and forster for 8.01, basic Physics I. "It's a big fall in the fall term." He expressed the opinion that many factors were responsible for the high rate of failure.

One major factor was that some of the students did not turn in assignments. Last year, over 160 CPs were given out, most of which were changed to passing grades by the middle of the spring term. This year, "the grade was more strictly interpreted," and only a few students who came close to getting CPs were given "TS." It was decided that, as most of the failing students had in fact received too high grades, the grade should not be an appropriate grade this year. Professor French stated that some of the failures might have been partially due to the subject's format. 8.01 was divided into ten units, each with a test at the end. The test was a one-sentence type problem. The problems on the final exam were more difficult, and similar to the homework problems in complexity. To take the final, the 8.01 students had to pass more than seven out of ten unit tests. Many students were apparently misled by the unit tests, thinking that if they passed them they would do well on the final.

Other students waited until late in the term to take the tests, and passed them without gaining an understanding of the material. Only one third of the fifty who failed had passed all ten unit tests.

Two more 8.01 finals will be given for those who failed. One was on January 31, and another two weeks into the spring term. Students may take one but not both of those. The Committee on Academic Disciplinary Infinity - the failing students were not given an appropriate grade.

"The failing students have\n"

Police Blotter

Police Blotter is a weekly compilation prepared by Campus Patrol to report crimes occurring in the MIT community.

1/16/73

Car stolen in Medford was recovered.

1/19/73

Larceny; new stereo; two young males observed leaving dorm with stereo- large box enough to hold type-

1/20/73

Bringing furniture to Walking in Rand Hall. Fry bar was used to break door. Camera equipment, and portable radio taken, CP and watch recovered.

2/1/73

Reported of a larceny, a telephone was taken from CAES.

2/1/73

Complainant reported an operator of a camera business was-\n
2/1/73

Two subjects arrested campus by in police. Pocketbook on desk was not stolen. Reported to CP.

2/3/73

Two subjects apprehended campus with knife, and-\n
2/3/73


2/3/73

Armed robbery at the rear of Walker Memorial.

2/4/73

Attempted murder, two subjects escaped away by office occu-

2/6/73

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