



Candidates for the Cambridge Election Commission at the public hearing last Thursday night.

Candidates see change in Election Commission

By Bill Conklin

"I'll treat all students and other voters on an equal basis," promised Tom Neel, a candidate for Cambridge Election Commissioner.

Seven candidates for the office spoke before the Democratic City Committee last week. The committee will elect three nominees, one of whom will be appointed to the post by the City Manager.

The candidates are Elizabeth Dunn, Jon Halberstadt, Tom Neel, Vincent Panico, Sondra Scheir, Phillip Shaw, and Andrew Trodden.

Most of the candidates saw extensive change in voter registration procedures as a primary goal.

"Young voters won't come because they know they will be hassled," stated Halberstadt. "Today, people don't believe in their government, and this isn't just the fault of Watergate, but the City of Cambridge, too."

"Registering shouldn't be an intimidating experience, and it has been," agreed Dunn.

When asked about the controversy over residency requirements, Trodden, the incumbent, replied, "If they're not residents, legally domiciled in the city of Cambridge, you should just forget about them."

During a question-and-answer period, Halberstadt asked why Edward Samp, one of four election commissioners, ran all registration sessions on college campuses. Trodden replied that the city was divided into areas, each one covered by one commissioner, and that Samp always took the universities, rather than an area.

"There are two ways we can go from here," stated Shaw. "We can expand the voting franchise, or keep it restricted. Samp is a lawyer and a Republican who doesn't believe in the Constitution, and wants to keep the franchise restricted."

In recent years, few MIT students have been able to register in Cambridge, particularly undergraduates. After complaints of alleged "harrasment" of students trying to register, the Cambridge City Council passed a bill to make college dormitories legal domicile.

Several of the candidates disapproved of commissioners in past years requiring proof of domicile.

Shaw vowed to intervene if he saw another commissioner mistreating a voter. "I like to argue with Samp! No proof or check of residence is required beyond the affidavit signed by the voter."

Neel and Halberstadt advocated a plan for checking residence authenticity by sending a postcard to the address given by the voter in question. If the post office returns it, the address given is wrong.

"The commissioners must provide evidence that someone doesn't live in Cambridge," argued Scheir. "The burden of proof is on the commission, not on the voters."

According to Neel, the commissioners should have "probable cause" before investigating the authenticity of a person's affidavit.

"College dorms are legal domicile," said Neel. "I think you'd have to deny registration to a fourteen year old Canadian who lives in Boston, but not to eighteen year old American college students who live in Cambridge."

"The Election Commission is there to serve the people," commented Panico. "I would call on all commissioners who haven't treated every person with respect to resign."

Other ideas put forth included increased publicity and longer hours for registration sessions, and moving the headquarters from the police station to City Hall.

Interest in law is growing

By Barb Moore

"Of the approximately 325,000 lawyers in the US today, 100,000 are still in law school," stated J. Daniel Nyhart, Director of the Committee on Preprofessional Advising and Education.

MIT graduates are also following the national trend. Since 1967, there has been a steady increase in the number of MIT students who apply to, and attend law school. In 1971, the Office for Preprofessional Ad-

vising and Education was developed to handle this overwhelming interest in law.

Nyhart attributed most of the inquiries at his office to several areas of the legal profession.

"Apart from going to law school, there seems to be a general interest in the law," Nyhart noted. "Students sense a need to know about the legal aspects of whatever field they are entering."

This "need to know" may be caused by the present situation

of the US, according to Nyhart. The students look at the "mess the country is in," and want to know how the government works.

The most common questions asked, however, are still "Do I really want to go to law school?" and "How do I get in?" Nyhart, and the other members of the committee attempt to answer these questions through a system of student initiated counselling. They also co-ordinate the law related studies program, which is a listing of courses offered at the Institute which relate to the law profession.

In a paper on Law Related Studies at MIT, Nyhart describes his responsibility in four points. The client groups for the law related studies must first be identified, along with the nature and range of current research in the field. The existing law related courses at MIT must then be immediately co-ordinated, in terms of information sharing and academic counselling, to assist the identified client groups.

Another responsibility of the committee is to explore the possibilities of cross-registration, and other co-operative arrangements between area colleges. In

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Baker House conducts remodelling experiments

By Michael Garry

In an effort to explore methods of improving dormitory living facilities, the fifth floor west section of Baker House was recently renovated under the direction of the House's Client Team.

Improvements in the common areas, halls, and lounges of the section, which houses about thirty students, were made under the direction of the team to study considerations that would affect a complete renovation of the 25-year-old house, and to improve the environment of the fifth-west section.

According to Hoah Mendelsohn '74, a member of the Client Team, funds for the project were made available last May by the Housing and Dining Service. The project cost was about \$25,000; part of the funds came from a special "renovations fund" established from alumni gifts.

The renovation is expected to serve as a "trial balloon" for the complete renovation of Baker, which has had no major structural work since it was built in 1948. James Moody '75, president of Baker, called the renovation "an experiment to see what people like, and what the right cost is, with the ultimate intent of redoing the entire house." The Client Team plans to survey the reactions and living patterns of the fifth west renovations to see if the same guidelines for renovation would be applicable to the house as a whole.

The Client Team, composed of students, administrators, Dean for Student Affairs' representatives, and the House's faculty residents, started work almost two years ago on the problem of improving facilities in Baker. Their report, dealing with long- and short-term projects for fix-

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SAT: what role?

By Greg Saltzman

The drop in SAT scores across the nation will not affect MIT admissions, according to Director of Admissions Peter Richardson.

Said Richardson, "My reaction is: yeah, they've dropped, but so what? People tend to blow test scores all out of proportion to their significance."

College Board scores are only a coarse screen which tells us which kids we want to look at seriously," Richardson continued.

"We won't take an applicant with a 400 on the SAT math," Richardson noted, "and it's un-

likely that we'll take somebody with a 500." Still, an 800 does not guarantee admission.

The standardized tests of the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) "are very useful in predicting what group of people will be successful academically at MIT. However," Richardson added, "we have twice as many of those as we need to fill a class."

From studies that have been conducted, MIT has found that "the SAT is not as useful in predicting MIT performance as the math and science Achievement tests." The SAT measures

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Massachusetts began voluntary gasoline rationing Monday, joining a growing number of states which have adopted the so-called "Oregon Plan." Eligibility for buying gasoline is

determined by license numbers. However, even if you had been eligible to buy gasoline at these three stations on Mass Ave in Cambridge, you paid high prices.