Through the Looking Glass:

100 more women than we can house...

By Michael D. McNamara

MIT's student body has changed from 75 percent men to 70 percent women in the past several years to update its image in the public eye. One of its more controversial decisions has been the fact that there are women at the Institute, and it is all right to allow your daughter to come here for an education. The precise factors responsible for the increase in female applications in the past couple of years are not known (many groups, most notably the Association for Women Students and the Administration's Office claim at least part of the credit). However, it is universally agreed that one of the Institute's rules is that only 10 percent of the women in this year's batch (the beginning of the fall term) will be upperclass women, and it is the only rule that has ever been changed.

The president of the Women's Association has noted that "com- munity support is very beneficial and the change is causing a lot of excitement among the students." However, it is not clear whether or not the change in policy will in fact increase the number of women who will be accepted to MIT for this fall semester.

Another point that many people have made is that the change in policy is making it more difficult for women to get into the Institute. This is due to the fact that the number of women applying is increasing each year, while the number of places available is not.

In Case of Insomnia--Who Gets Gassed?

By Steven Kaufman

Gas rationing began yesterday in Mass- achusetts, and as a result it will be es- pecially difficult for upperclassmen to get around. However, the system is voluntary, and people are encouraged to participate only to a certain extent. Therefore, it is unlikely that the system will be a success.

One of the main problems with the system is that it is not clear whether or not it will work. The fact that the system is voluntary will probably lead to all sorts of confusion and difficul- ties. The Boston Globe has run several articles including an interview with service station owners and attendants. Many of the owners feel that they have been forced to participate in the system, and that it is unfair to them. Other dealers have stated that they will continue to operate their present systems -- gas by appointment only, gas to regular customers, a maximum of one gallon per person per week, no system in place at all -- because they don't believe that the government is knowledgeable about the situation.

Another problem is that the system is not clear. What does that mean? The unfortunate motorist who, despite the best intentions of the people who manage the system, is unable to buy the amount of gas he needs to keep going is obviously going to be in a difficult situation. Therefore, it is important that the system be clear and easily understandable.

The best hope for success of the system is to make it mandatory. This will ensure that all people are aware of the rules, and that they will know what to expect. If the system is not mandatory, people will be able to ignore it, and the system will fail.

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