Contraction to prior claims, MIT does not have the world’s largest yo-yo. This 50-pound, four-foot-wide yo-yo is part of the aerial team’s show, which would have been18 inches wide if built during IAP by students in Mechanical Engineering. What’s more, the Army’s yo-yos work. For the full story, see Letters on page 4.

**MIT bucks nat’l trends; final applications rising**

By Storm Kaufman

Final applications for admission to the Class of 1978 will exceed 4358, which is approximately 20% more than last year, according to Assistant Director of Admissions Cynthia Blumquist.

Figures tabulated as of February 13 showed that about 50% of the applicants were women—887 women and 5471 men. These numbers apply only to "complete applications" which are those which include all information required by the Admissions Office, transcript, advisor or instructor evaluations, etc. and are ready to be reviewed by the admissions staff.

Only comparison figures from January 30 of last year were available, but based on then the number of women applicants has increased 9% (from 1138 in 1972 to 1242 on January 30, 1974).

Other comparisons showed that applications from men had increased 10%, applications from blacks 40%, and applications from other minority groups had also grown significantly.

While Director of Admissions Pete Richardson was pleased with the numbers, he was a rocky outcropping, for example, being only 4% of all applicants. He called the increase "encouraging" but stated that "despite an intensified search we have still not found adequate ways to increase the minority representation at MIT as much as we would want."

He continued, "Finding minority students with adequate preparation in high school mathematics and science is still one of the most important and difficult tasks facing the admissions office at MIT.

The applicant breakdown shows: 24 Puerto Ricans (25%) of last year, 24 non-Amer-icans (40%), 37 Spanish-Americans (down to 70% of last year). Out of this applicant pool, the Admissions Office will admit a sufficient number (probably about 1700) to achieve a class size of about 1000. However, uncertainties in the admissions process could cause the class to be somewhat smaller or larger, Richardson estimated that between 15% and 25% of the incoming class would be female. In a previous interview with The Tech, Richardson has expressed

**Institute begins drought aid**

By Jules Mollere

Dr. Hans Guggenheim, a research affiliate in the Department of Architecture, labeled as "very successful" his trip to drought-stricken West Africa to demonstrate a new water storage technique.

Guggenheim and the five students who accompanied him to Mali had originally intended to convert Dogon granaries into water collection and storage tanks. The Dogon are one of the many people in West Africa under drought for the fifth year of severe drought.

"We soon found out that we couldn’t do what we’d planned," said Guggenheim, "The granaries are built on stones or platforms which would have been crushed under the pressure. There is a rocky outcropping in the chief’s compound, however, which provided a strong base."

The water storage structure, as built, consists of a brick wall nine feet in diameter and height lined on the bottom with a soil cement base and by chicken wire and ferro-concrete along the sides. Water is estimated to be a system from adjacent roofs through clay pipes.

"The roof of the unit created quite a problem, The Dogon were afraid that a flat roof would collapse during the rains. A dome large enough to cover it however was not in their technical repertoire and would conflict with the architecture around it. Finally settled on a dome of reduced area such as the Dogon normally use but supported with wooden crossbars."

Guggenheim stressed that the structure could not have been built without the permission and enthusiasm of the regional chief. "The chief began by regarding the project as ours and simply letting us do it as an old friend. We had the hardest time trying to convince him that we really didn’t intend to work on it himself and finally even let anybody else work on the project but not on his land and with his assistance"

Change should broaden Humanities requirement

By Mike McNiece

Mike McNiece is News Editor of The Tech. Last week he returned to the "review of the Humanities and Social Sciences requirement" and published the first of two articles analyzing the proposed requirement.

The proposed change in the Institute Humanities and Social Sciences requirement, which will be presented to the Committee on Education in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the faculty meeting Wednesday, is the result of a long process of modification and revision of the requirement. The faculty seems to regard as one of their most difficult challenges.

The faculty also discussed a change in the faculty rules that would allow the new Associate Provost, Professor of Mathematics Hartley Rogers, to become the co-official in charge of the project. The committee sent the proposal to Guggenheim, a post which has been vacant since 1967. The motion, introduced by the Chair of the Faculty Professor Elias Gygax, was passed without a vote, and voting on the motion was postponed until the March faculty meeting.

The humanities requirement

Over half of last year’s long meeting was concerned with discussion of the proposed changes in the Institute requirement in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Dean Harold Hanham of the School of Humanities introduced the proposal, explaining that it was the first attempt to revise the HASS requirement since it was first established by the Lewis Commission in 1949.

"The Lewis Commission came down hard for the Western tradition that is incorporated into the current requirements," Hanham noted.

"They established a cultural core, and pushed for an "academic major" as an important part of the humanities and social sciences. Enormous changes in the nature of the MIT student body, Hanham stated, had necessitated the current requirement, as well as "wars and the current international system. ... Hardly any of the rules still applied as they were introduced."

"The committee has become difficult to tell what the social and human sciences role should play at MIT."