Wives: MIT good for women

By Pat Foley

Discovering the stage that behind every successful man is a woman, Laya Wiesner proclaims, "Women have been beside and ahead of their husbands on many occasions for years."

Speaking before the Women's Forum, Wiesner, along with Margaret Compton, Catherine Stratton, and Betty Johnson told of their relationship to MIT women while their husbands Karl Taylor Compton, J. A. Stratton, and Howard W. Johnson were presidents of the Institute.

The workshop on Women in Science and Technology held at MIT in May of 1973 and the book ensuing from this workshop were part of the effort spearheaded by Wiesner to urge all women to consider careers in non-traditional areas. Wiesner is considering the possibility of establishing a center to assure high school women of having completely open options for careers in non-traditional areas.

In 1920, before marrying Compton, Mrs. Compton worked with the YWCA establishing vocational conferences for university women, to show these women new opportunities for careers in non-traditional areas. In 1935, Laya Wiesner moved to MIT with her husband, Karl Taylor Compton, J. A. Compton was instrumental in providing the first women's residence at 120 Bay State Road in Boston. Later she was involved in showing Mrs. McCormick '04 the need for a permanent women's dormitory on campus, which resulted in McCormick Hall.

Stratton was elected Chairman of the National Resource Center for Women in the YWCA in 1970. Stratton is active in gathering data and developing guidelines for programs in career development and job training and procurement for teenage women. Stratton came to MIT as a "Tech bride" in 1935. She lived in the President's house from 1958 to 1966. To her, "these years were the most fascinating in my whole life." Stratton was active with the Technology Museum and the Sloan Foundation. When her husband, Karl, became President of MIT, she moved to a residence at 120 Bay State Road in Boston. Later she was involved in showing Mrs. McCormick '04 the need for a permanent women's dormitory on campus, which resulted in McCormick Hall.

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In showing Mrs. McCormick '04 the need for a permanent women's dormitory on campus, which resulted in McCormick Hall, Stratton was involved in establishing the Sloan Fellows Program in 1968. She also saw the first women Sloan Fellow in 1968 and the first two Sloan Fellows in 1969. Johnson views MIT as a "special place for women to be," adding that, "women have added immeasurably to the number of contributions in the last ten years."

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De Kuyper Sloe Gin.

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Sloe Ball
Combine 1/4 oz. De Kuyper Sloe Gin, orange juice and the juice of 1/4 lime. Pour over ice cubes in tall glass. Stir well. Garnish with lime wedge.

Sloe Joe
Shake 2 oz. De Kuyper Sloe Gin and 1 oz. of lemon juice well with ice. Strain into cocktail glass or pour over rocks. Garnish with cherry.