

Photo by Rob Mitchell

## Being Black at MIT: isolation

By Barb Moore

One of the least visible yet most active minorities at MIT is the black student population.

Although there are no statistics available on the number of black students enrolled, estimates range from 150 to 300, making it one of the smallest minorities on campus. Yet, the Black Student Union (BSU), comprised totally of black MIT students, is considered one of the most active and cohesive student groups at MIT.

Phil Hampton '76, co-chairman of BSU, pegs the group's membership at about 50. Although not all black students are members of BSU, its representation seems to be more complete than that of the Undergraduate Association (UA). Since the percentage of black students who belong to BSU is higher than the percentage of the overall student body who vote in the UA elections.

The black students at MIT express many of the same dissatisfactions that members of any minority group feel. There are often feelings of isolation

and lack of support. Jimmie Russell '75 stated that although most blacks are not happy at MIT it is not necessarily a function of the Institute. "It happens to be the place where growing and maturing begin, and the black student begins to question his place in society. If MIT is the place where it happens, you blame MIT."

Debbie Thompson '78 agrees that MIT is not totally at fault. She said that she is no less happy here than at another school. "Blacks at MIT are a very select group. You've already accepted the workload, the isolation, and having to deal with whites."

Most of the complaints center around the feeling that MIT is not responsive to the needs of blacks. Thompson continued that "MIT is not responsive to anybody's needs," including those of black students. Russell agreed that "students in general are treated poorly," at MIT adding that education ranks "about nine on a scale of ten in importance."

Carola Eisenberg, Dean for Student Affairs, stated, "Society has not faced the prob-

lem squarely. They are not the problems of the blacks; they are problems of society." She noted that MIT as an institution has not been able to provide the atmosphere needed by minority students, especially those with poor educational backgrounds. "MIT is slowly and painfully learning to provide a more supportive atmosphere for minority students," she said.

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## Chomsky calls US imperialistic

By Gerald Radack

United States foreign policy has been and will continue to be imperialistic in nature, MIT's Professor Noam A. Chomsky told an audience at Harvard Wednesday.

"The central concern of American foreign policy is to see that the oil reserves of the Middle East are under control of American oil corporations, which means not under the independent control of others," Chomsky said.

"Essentially the United States has succeeded in constructing a stable system within the Middle East oil producers in which the United States has control," Chomsky added.

Chomsky at a "Teach-In on Cyprus," which was held in an auditorium at the Harvard Science Center on Wednesday evening. The teach-in, sponsored by the Cyprus Solidarity Committee, a group based in Cambridge, was held to organize relief efforts for 200,000 Cypriots who are refugees from the recent war on Cyprus.

"United States actions in July undoubtedly intended to support the coup that replaced Archbishop Makarios, who had been president of Cyprus since its independence in 1960, with the hopeless Sampson government," Chomsky said. He also said that "it is clear that the United States knew about the July 15 coup well over two weeks before it took place."

Chomsky told the group that the purpose of the "Cold War" was for "both superpowers (United States and Soviet Union) to remain in control over their respective dominions. This has now been formalized as detente, although a much more accurate word would be entente."

## Institute plans to limit student access to files

By Norman D. Sandler

MIT students today began submitting formal requests to the Dean's Office for what they hope will be permission to view their personal files.

However, as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 went into effect, the Institute announced its plans to limit access by students to their records, unless regulations to the contrary are issued by federal authorities.

In a statement circulated with the call to Wednesday's faculty meeting, Chancellor Paul E. Gray said that until further notice, files will be opened for inspection, although no confidential documents will be released to a student without the written consent of the original author. Letters of recommendation and evaluations dated before Nov. 19 (today) which are contained in the files are, therefore, exempt from the law under the MIT interpretation.

In the statement released Monday, Gray said, "The Institute reaffirms its responsibility for protecting fully the privacy rights of all individuals concerning whom it holds information, records and files." He promised that MIT would act

"in the spirit" of the new law, and said beginning today all appraisals, requests for information and applications handled by MIT will contain a statement to the effect that the information in them is subject to review by the individual involved.

The Gray statement also grants "persons responsible for the maintenance and control of information" at MIT the right to dispose of records after they are used, subject to federal regulations requiring certain categories of information to be retained.

Meanwhile, in Washington, a bureaucratic battle appears to be shaping up over who will be responsible for monitoring implementation of the privacy law and enforcing its compliance.

The "battle" is between the US Office of Education and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. After a lengthy meeting last week, HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger reportedly decided his office will take complaints regarding implementation of the law, but added no federal guidelines will be issued, and no action is expected at least until next spring.

## New particle found in atomic nucleus

By Mike McNamiee

A new elementary particle that promises to help solve puzzling problems in nuclear physics has been simultaneously discovered by an MIT-directed research team and a team from Stanford University.

Discovery of the particle, announced simultaneously at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and the Brookhaven National Laboratories last Saturday, was made by the two groups independently, using different experiments which produced near-identical results.

The discovery of the particle was totally unpredicted and sudden, and the discoverers described the particle's properties as "totally unexpected." It is believed that the particle is a carrier for the so-called "weak atomic force," one of four forces discovered by nuclear physicists.

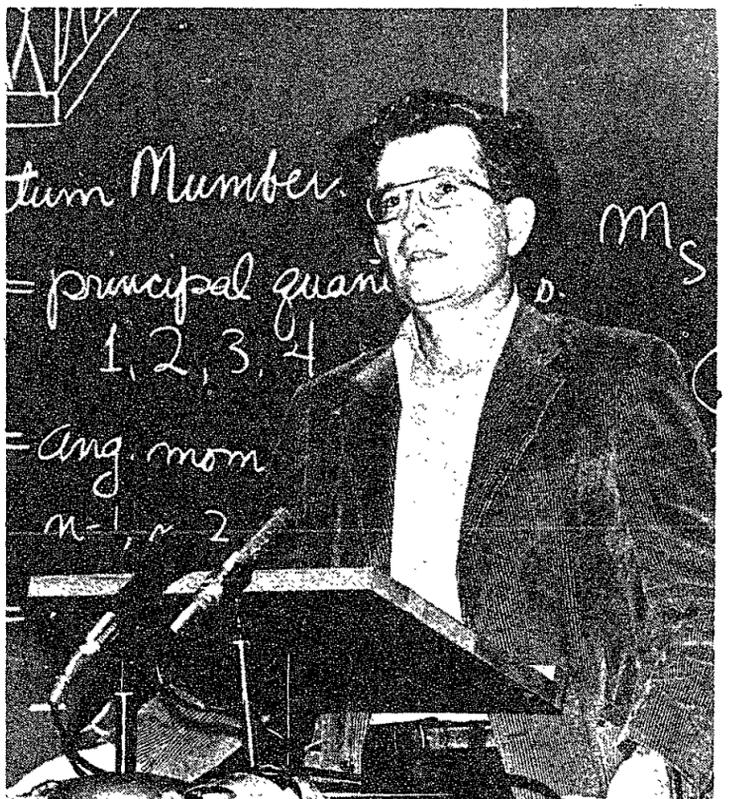
The MIT research team, directed by Professor of Physics Samuel C.C. Ting, discovered the

particle in experiments at Brookhaven's Alternating Gradient Synchrotron. While bombarding a proton target with beams of protons, the researchers discovered a large number of electron-positron pairs being generated with energies of approximately 3.1 billion electron volts, indicating creation of a particle with a mass equivalent to that energy.

The Stanford discovery was made in an entirely different manner, using colliding beams of electrons and positrons to produce the heavy particles. Due to the simultaneous discovery of the particle in different experiments, the announcement was made without confirmation by another laboratory, as is usually the case in such discoveries.

The new particle has some unusual properties which have not yet been explained by theoretical physicists. For instance, measurements indicate

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Noam Chomsky, Professor of Linguistics

Photo by Carl Mann