By Bob Moore

The admittee of Alpha Phi Omega (APO) has passed the month in which legitimize the role of women in the MIT chapter of APO, known as the Alpha Chi chapter.

The MIT chapter of APO has admitted women to its membership for the past 5 of its 20 years. The active participation of women in APO was not approved by the National Executive Board until December 27-29, 1973.

APO is a national service fraternity, dedicated to campus and community service projects. At MIT, APO hands such projects as registration, UMOB, and book sales, and ushering in book sales.

The Freshman Advisory Council (FAC) of the Dean for Student Affairs office has released portions of the Housing Survey Report in draft form. A random sample of 3,400 students was used in the survey. The 469 questionnaires that were returned were sorted and weighted to represent the student population.

Although the report has "gaps and loopholes" according to Buttner, "we now know more than we did before." Buttner said inclusion in the final version of any analysis or policy recommendations by or to the dean's office was uncertain. "I am prepared to express some opinions, based on the data gathered in the survey," he said.

The survey was prepared after a number of hour-long personal interviews with students, in which living conditions and problems were discussed. The survey was carefully protected, and Buttner says he has no doubt about its validity.

Even if the report does not include recommendations or an outline of new policies, it will present facts, Buttner said. "At the minimum, the survey should result in some fine tuning of the housing system to provide greater satisfaction for those involved."

At the outside, he said, some major policy changes might be considered. Based on data gathered for the report, more dean's office help may be offered to those living off-campus.

The first released section of the report, dealing with transportation, found three-quarters of all fraternity members named walking as their principal mode of transportation, with about half occasionally using mass transportation or a friend's car. Forty percent of whom said they lived more than two miles from MIT, walk to school for the most part (40 percent), though some hitch (25 percent) and fewer use their own cars or public transportation (about 15 percent each). Again, about half occasionally use mass transit.

The draft concluded, "a major negative aspect of off-campus is transportation-related. Students living at some distance from the campus find it hard or impossible to participate in evening activities or to work on the computers or in the libraries, etc., if living more than two miles from MIT.

It recommended that MIT support improved mass transit, but noted "there is no ready solution to the problem of inconvenience."

By John Hasted

Birth control may be as regular as paying taxes by 1980. That is the implication of correspondence in Nature by Paul M. Newberne, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Newberne leads a group of researchers that has developed a slowly dissolving capsule, which, when implanted under the skin, can deliver up to a year's supply of the birth control drug norgestrel.

The biodegradable capsule is broken down and absorbed by normal body action in the same manner as absorbable sutures, which have been commonplace in surgery for years.

A similar system using a non-biodegradable capsule has been in existence, but has seen little use due to the need to remove the capsule when the supply of the birth control drug is exhausted.

The system has been perfected in laboratory experiments on rats and dogs, but has not been tested on humans yet. The imagine what might be tested on humans, in a country such as India if we could break it only every six months.

The convenience of an implantable, biodegradable capsule would be a tremendous advantage. Just as most people think of India, but that's not enough. We could conceivably eliminate some of the health effects that women often experience with oral contraceptives.

"Oral contraceptives have proven unacceptable to women in developing countries because they require intermittent use," Newberne said.

The MIT chapter first elected a woman to the position of President for fall term 1973. Liz W. was chosen. The chapter was shortly notified that its official representative to the National (national) organization (President) could not be a woman.

Alpha Chi then changed its chapter bylaws to allow female candidates to run for the position of Executive Director, the new position of the University, who would not be the official national representative. Was was chosen. After Buttner, the Executive Director to appeal the national bylaws.

Reaction of MIT officers to the national bylaw change was lukewarm. Buttner stated "I would have preferred full membership, but our national affiliation is not about this. It's something to work on. Our group got 90% of what we wanted."

By Stephen Burt

Critics of pass/fail by the Electrical Engineering faculty and proposed amendments to the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading Recommendations at last February's MIT Student Congress have formalized the committee's final meeting of 1974, on Dec. 18.

The faculty has also decided, 37-11, to set up a three year experiment, a M.S. degree program in Course XXV (interdisciplinary Sciences).

The Grading Committee recommendations included a proposal that the senior pass-fail option be extended to include both courses taken in any of the four upperclass terms. Several members of the Electrical Engineering Department attacked freshmen pass-fail during the discussion of the committee, concluding that students who took 6.011, the introductory course in electrical engineering, on a pass-fail basis were not as well prepared for the second course, 6.012, as students who took '011 for letter grades.

Chancellor Paul E. Grey summarized the origins of pass-fail, noting that "the same problems of student adaptation to MIT existed before pass-fail was instituted." He added, "It has allowed more than a term to get used to MIT."

At the request of the Dean Officer of the Freshman Advisory Council, reported that responses to the 1973 survey of students by the Freshman Advisory Council is serving the purpose it was designed for.

Professor Robert Gallagher of the Department of Electrical Engineering proposed a series of amendments to the Grading Committee recommendations, which were rejected. The Department of Chemistry followed suit. Gallagher's amendments were:

1. Students must be selected by the 5th week of the term. A motion on the submission of any subject after that time died during the drop date (3rd week).

2. Students may "drop" up to two courses without appearing on the external transcript, but that the official transcript would be marked with the grade "DD" for dropping.

Newbirth control method found

The Course XXV Master's program will be conducted as an on-campus program at MIT, 1975-78. It was designed to serve both "as an extension of the undergraduate program for students wishing to do more advanced work." A major in interdisciplinary science area and to "develop certain rather highly specified programs to provide training for people in areas with which MIT is not yet directed toward research," according to the proposal of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The Course XXV committee, including representatives of the departments in the School of Science and from the Psychol-