65 advisors sought for record-size class

By William Lasser

Sixty-five additional advisors are being sought by the Freshman and Visiting Council (FAC) to accommodate the class of 79, the largest ever to enroll at the Institute. Although the FAC could "get by" with the 26 in 100 now advisors, according to Professor Bertan, executive officer of the FAC, 65 more advisors (raising the total number to 276) would give each advisor an optimal number of advisees.

The number of graduate students serving as freshman advisors will be doubled next year, with over thirty serving for the class of 79. A Faculty advisor will be working with each graduate advisor and will work "with the advisor and his advisees in any way that seems appropriate during the year," said Bertan.

He added that he expects the position of advisor to attract new faculty interest in advising because it will give new members a chance to try advising without as many responsibilities as the advisor himself.

Letters were sent to faculty members in April, Bertan said, asking them to ask department members to become advisors. In addition to faculty, some administration officials, such as admissions, personnel and financial aid advisors are being sought as advisors. Alumni are also represented.

MIT contract with Saudis stalled

By Mike McNamara

Institute officials are awaiting the return of MIT negotiators from Saudi Arabia to assess the progress of talks with the Saudis on a $2 million research contract.

The two-year-long negotiations for joint study of water resources and electrical power generation needs by MIT and Saudi researchers broke down recently, apparently due to disagreement over a contract clause on admission of MIT researchers to Saudi Arabia.

Saudis initially refused to sign the contract after Prince Mohammad Faisal, chairman of the Saudi group, received what he called a "demurralizing" letter from President Jerome B. Wiesner. The Saudis were thought to have objected to a contract clause providing that any competent MIT researcher be permitted to enter that country.

Saudis have in the past refused entrance to Jews and persons who support the Zionist view of Israel as a religious state with historical rights to Palestine. Several American companies have been criticized for dealings with Saudis on such terms, thus discriminating against Jewish employees.

MIT officials stressed, however, that the discrimination issue was not the only one which the Saudis had rejected, and that they were waiting for a fuller report from Professor of Civil Engineering William W. Seifert, head of the MIT negotiating team, to assess the failure of negotiations. Seifert has not yet returned from Saudi Arabia.

"All we know is that Seifert took over a final contract, and we get a short cable saying that they had not accepted it," Wiesner told The Tech yesterday. "I would suppose that it was the discrimination problem, but I don't want to conjecture until I've had a full report."

Wiesner refused to comment on the letter on which the Prince had termed "threatening," saying only that it was "a general letter" dismissing the contract and thanking the Prince for his correspondence.

J. Herbert Holloman, director of the MIT Center for Policy Alternatives, the group which would have administered the program, said the discrimination problem was an important issue in the negotiations, but was not the only one. "We have had disagreements with them on publication terms, arrangements for terminating the contract, payment, and MIT's right to judge the competence of the Saudi researchers who come here," Holloman said. "Discrimination was not the only issue by any means."

Holloman said that MIT had not been told directly that the Saudis might discriminate against researchers, but that the negotiators were aware of past examples of discrimination. Thus, he said, MIT tried to prepare a contract which "would protect the integrity of our people working over there."

Joint studies planned

The contract, Holloman said, would have enabled MIT to work on two- to three-year studies of Saudi needs for water and power. The research would have been conducted at MIT and in Arabia, with researchers from the Institute and Saudi universities working on the studies.

About 14 "full-time-equiva- lent" researchers, faculty, staff, and some students would be working with the Center on the project, Holloman explained. They would construct and test models for usage of resources in an effort to help the Saudi government plan for future needs.

The contract was planned with the Saline Water Conversion Corporation, of which Prince Mohammad, a son of the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, is chairman. That corporation is in charge of developing facilities for desalting seawater and purifying ground water for the country's growing urban needs. The Saudi government is planning to invest about $10 billion over the next ten years into water resource development.

One problem in negotiating the research contract, Holloman said, was that it was one of the first contracts the Saudis have ever negotiated for research services. "They have bought services for things like building dams before, but have never dealt with academic institutions on a large scale."

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Stink bomb forces LSC to relocate Sun. movie

By Gerald Radack

As apparent prank caused the first showing of the Sunday night Lecture Series Committee movie to be moved from Room 26-100 in between roils and almost canceled the second showing.

The 26-100 lecture hall was hastily abandoned and the city fire department rescue squad called in after the air there became filled with "noxious" gas that resembled "muff compound," according to several witnesses.

"The rescue department was called because there was a concern it might be city gas," according to Safety Officer Director Charles Fuller of the city, who checked for combustible gas detection revealed however that there was no gas from that source.

Campus Patrol Captam Richard Drioscok said that Campus Patrol officers who were called to the scene reached the opinion that the gas "had nothing to do with any fire," and was "possibly a stink bomb."

Bracewell said, "we felt obligated not to collect tickets."

Stink bomb forced LSC to relocate Sunday's movie with historical rights to Palestine. Saudi scholars have in the past refused entrance to Jews and persons who support the Israeli view of Palestine as a religious state with historical rights to Palestine. Several American companies have been criticized for dealings with Saudis on such terms, thus discriminating against Jewish employees.

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About 200 people came out into the sunshine Sunday to tear the silver Stage Steel Drum Band playing on the steps of the Student Center.

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