Baltimore wins Nobel

By Mike McNamara

David Baltimore, American Cancer Society Professor of Microbiology, yesterday was named to the roster of the 1975 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology. Baltimore was in recognition of Baltimore's fundamental work in virus research with polio viruses and viruses that cause cancer in animals.

The $143,000 prize with Baltimore, who also heads a research group at the MIT Cancer Research Center, are Dr. Howard F. Berliner of the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin and Dr. Renato del Bello of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London. The awards committee cited their work for "their discoveries concerning the interaction between virus agents and the genetic material of the cell," work which is "fundamental to the understanding of the deep and lasting effects on cancer research and genetics.

Baltimore, who is on sabbatical as a visiting professor at the Rockefeller University in New York, received word of his award at 7:30 yesterday morning from his wife, a Harvard Medical School researcher who is currently attending a conference on leukemia in Copenhagen. "My first reaction was to try to wake up," Baltimore said. "Then I was shocked, elated, ecstatic -- you name it."

Baltimore is a fourth Nobel laureate on the MIT faculty, joining Institute Professor of Biology Eric Lander, head of the Computer Science Laboratory, Institute Professor of Economics Paul Samuelson, and Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Biology and Chemistry Har Gobind Khorana.

President Jerome B. Wiesner told reporters at a news conference yesterday that his first reaction to the award was, "it couldn't have happened to a better fellow."

"Recognition of this kind naturally makes everyone here at MIT extremely pleased," Wiesner said. "There was great elation from everyone who Professor Baltimore's work has been first announced." Wiesner continued.

"It's a mark of the School of Science where Prof. Albery told The Tech, "Recognition of the Nobel Prize is one of the highest honors that can be given a scientific..." It represents a peer review of the highest order, a recognition by the scientific community of outstanding work that makes really significant advances in knowledge.

Baltimore said his research has potential through "genetic engineering" -- modification or mutation of cells by manipulating DNA. Since reverse transcriptase allows RNA into DNA changes for any RNA in DNA can be created, implanted into bacteria cells and allowed to multiply into potential new forms of life.

"In the technique in 1972 when he and co-workers synthesized a part of the gene for globin, the protein part of hemoglobin, the first time any part of a mammalian gene had been synthesized."

(please turn to page 4)

MIT call for fire help disputed by city agency

By Mike McNamara

Discourages MIT and Cambridge reports on the fire in Tang Hall this summer have led to questioning of the city's response to MIT's call for help. Investigation of the fire has answered an 11-minute delay by the city in responding to the MIT call for fire help, but the city, according to the report presented by Prof. Richard L. Wiesner, in a meeting yesterday, says MIT's calls for fire equipment, a delay that might have figured in the death of a student in the fire, would bring the per-call charge on the fire department.

"In the first few minutes after the fire was discovered at 11:24 a.m. July 22, 1975, as many as four calls were made to Cambridge's dispatching agency within the first 11 minutes after the alarm," the report says. "All fires in the school, according to the report, were answered by the monitor dialing Fire Alarm Equipment, and again failed to get an answer."

"It would be safe to say that the fire alarm was not reached and called on the fire."

(please turn to page 4)

Colleges fight meals tax

By Mike McNamara

Three Massachusetts colleges have joined a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a state excise tax levied against colleges to force exemption of college contracts. The suit was filed in the state courts by the three independent institutions: Harvard University, Bowdoin College, and Amherst College. The suit states that the colleges argue, however, that the tax is discriminatory and would specifically exempting college contract meals from the state's sales tax.

At the Commonwealth consolidation board will decide how much of the state's excise taxes will be paid by the state to Cambridge's public and private colleges. It will now decide if the tax is constitutional.

The colleges argue, however, that the tax is unfair to private schools. The colleges have been met with resistance from the state as the courts have not met the colleges' arguments.

(please turn to page 4)

No action taken on Iran report

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Formal action on developing the Institute's foreign-policy guidelines was once again deferred Wednesday at the Faculty meeting. A faculty faculty subcommittee has prepared its report for the committee to make further study and work on the issue.

The debate on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of International Relations was dominated by a spirited debate on the faculty subcommittee's report, which was presented again in November.

(please turn to page 4)

Faculty Meeting

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