**MIT to investigate Sayles dismissal**

By Mike McNamee

The MIT administration has launched an investigation of the firing of Mary Lou Sayles, Director of Women's Athletics, by the Athletic Department.

Sayles, who was notified on Feb. 13 that her contract as women's athletic director and gymnastics coach would not be renewed, has met with President Jerome B. Wiesner and requested a more level look at the circumstances surrounding her dismissal.

Provost Walter Rosenbluth will conduct the inquiry in his capacity as chief academic officer of the Institute. Sayles told The Tech that she might request a further investigation by Mary Potter Rowe, Special Assistant to the President and Chancellor for Women and Work.

Sayles told The Tech she was notified that her contract would not be renewed because "of incompetency — specifically, they didn't like my teaching and coaching." She said she planned to challenge the evaluation, and charged that the firing was a blow at women's athletics at MIT.

"There is no way I feel like I'm incompetent — I simply can't accept that evaluation," Sayles said. "After this incident I would have to agree that MIT's commitment to women's athletics is shaking down — I wouldn't have thought so Feb. 12, but now..."

Professor Ross Smith, Director of Athletics, refused to discuss the reasons for Sayles's dismissal, saying he needed to gather more information on matters of personnel with the press. He denied that the Athletic Department intended to do away with the position of Director of Women's Athletics.

"There has never been a question of dropping the position it's a prominent part of the Athletic Department organization," he said.

**MIT presidential poll to be held**

"Campaign '76" is a new feature of The Tech which will present news on the presidential, senatorial, and state elections being held this year. "Campaign '76" is written by members of The Tech staff.

There will be an Institute-wide presidential poll taken next Monday, one day before the Massachusetts state presidential primary.

Special Assistant to the Provost Dr. Louis Mendelsohn III and the Lecture Series Committee are co-sponsoring the event, which will take place between the hours of 9am-5pm at a specially designated booth in Lobby I.

All those participating in the poll will be able to cast ballots for the Democratic and Republican candidates of their choice, with results being made available before the local polls open Tuesday afternoon.

Publicity for the event will be handled by LSC, and MIT student campaign workers for the various candidates will assist in distributing ballots.

* An opinion by presidential candidate Fred Harris on the MIT campus scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled at the last minute by his campaign staff, according to Lecture Series Committee HSC officials. It was the third time Harris has cancelled an MIT appearance.

The talk was arranged on Tuesday as an outdoor rally but was later changed to an indoor talk by the Harris campaign, according to Mike Dornbrook, 115th Lecture Subdirector.

The Wednesday meeting cancellation of the 1:30pm talk was attributed at the time to "meetings in New Hampshire with aides to discuss strategy." Dornbrook noted. However, Harris appeared in downtown Boston at 1:45pm on Wednesday. The campaign's explanation was that "TV coverage was better downtown," Dornbrook said.

Winston Emmens, press secretary for Harris' Massachusetts campaign, explained that Harris finished his New Hampshire meetings sooner than expected and got into Boston at 7pm. "We cancelled on the basis that he wouldn't make it, and didn't want to create more confusion by turning it back on," he said.

Previous cancellations were for lectures on Feb. 4 and Feb. 27, and were made well in advance.

* "We have the possibility to reach out and offer an alternative to the present system," Peter Canzona, Socialist Workers Party (SWP) presidential candidate, told a sparsely attended gathering in 9-150 Tuesday night. Canzona's appearance was part of the 115th Lecture Series Committee's "Campaign '76" series. Other speakers in the series have included Milton Sharpe and Morris Udall, Democratic presidential candidates.

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**Anti-meals tax petition circulated**

By Gerald Radack

A petition drive supporting a bill to exempt Commonwealth and fraternity meals from the 8 per cent state meals tax is now being launched by fraternity and dormitory officials.

The bill, known as H.766, along with several other similar ones, will be considered by the Committee on Taxation of the Massachusetts legislature on March 8.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth Browning told The Tech that he hopes to be able to present the petitions to the chairman of the tax committee before the hearing.

The Dean's Office has also sent letters to parents of students who reside in the Institute to fraternity and dormitory offices, urging them to write to their state representatives in favor of the bill introduced by Rep. Barbara Gray, of Framingham.

Browning noted that although he was unable to estimate the amount of the tax, the petition is written and is being circulated by students.

"Inter-fraternity Conference put the petition in fraternity mailboxes, along with a cover letter," IPC Chairman Mark Sutherland stated. "Petitions should be returned to him by 5pm today, he said, and until then "I'm not keeping tabs on the number of signatures obtained."

Brian Hughes '77 said that petitions had also been handed out to dormitory residents.

Hughes said he is hoping to get the signatures of 80 per cent of the dormitory residents. "We are trying to walk through and knock on every door," he said.

Neither Hughes nor Undergraduate Association President Lee Allen '77 knew how many dormitory residents had signed the petitions.

Even if the efforts to amend the tax law ultimately fail, the Institute will continue "to chew down every possibility" to get an exemption for college meals, Browning asserted. "If we lose this, we might try a test case," Browning said of "at least two" fraternities that would be willing to withhold meals taxes in order to bring the suit to court.

"This is one of the few cases where we can save the students some money without having to figure out where the Institute budget's going to make it up," Browning noted.