**Levich: reject surrogate scientists**

By Tina Krontiris

It is the duty of Western scientists to help their Soviet colleagues attempt to emigrate, said Yevgeny Levich, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "We're not going around asking people what they think, because it is difficult, how- ever, to point out, for high-ranking academics to be permitted to leave the country, because those people are con- sidered to be in possession of secret information." Nor do the Russians have any clearly defined guidelines, he remarked, as to what they consider secret.

Levich reminded his audience that Soviet officials usually send "substitute" to scientific con- ferences instead of the specific persons invited. He said that American academicians should refuse to accept these substitutes — however rude it may be. When the substitutes are repeatedly rejected, he asserted, USSR officials will be forced to relax their attitude — they will not sacrifice their exchange program. When American academic institutions such as MIT invite Soviet scientists for a visit, Levich said, they must keep in mind the biases and opinions of the Russians, who have a peculiar sense of prestige and authority.

If, he explained, MIT wishes to extend an invitation, it should do so through the National Academy of Science — because the Russian NAS has greater authority, and, therefore, the invitation seems to be more offi- cialized.

The technocrats of the USSR believe in doing everything "officially," Levich said, and this usually means that they like to deal with an authority that is known to them as being the highest.

It is difficult for high-ranking Soviet scientists to gain a visa, Levich said, but it is even more difficult for Jewish scientists.

His father, Ben Levich, a prominent Jewish scientist who gave up his position as nuclear physicist in 1959, was promised permission to leave the USSR by 1975, but he was finally refused a visa.

"In the case of my father," Levich said, "they did not even claim that possession of secret information was the reason." He added that the Soviet officials gave no reason for denying his father a visa.

Levich, his wife, his brother and his sister-in-law were permit- ted to emigrate five years ago and have been waiting for their father to join them.

The talk Levich gave was sponsored by the MIT Commit- tee for Azbel, Lerner, and Levich.

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**Student apathy still a problem**

Student Committee members in a meeting last Tuesday stated they aren't getting a wide enough range of student input and feedback about their roles.

The student representatives, speaking at a forum open to the public, complained that students "just aren't interested" in voting what actually goes on in committees and the Institute.

Only two students showed up to listen.

"How can you find out what the student view is?" asked Vic Frankiwicz '77, a member of the Committee on Discipline.

"Grease," he added, noting that it must sometimes appoint its own members to other committees. "If we didn't appoint our- selves, we're just going to be a whole. "If we didn't appoint our- selves, we're just going to be a whole. "If we didn't appoint our- selves, we're just going to be a whole.

**Smoking ban requested**

The faculty has approved a resolution asking that smoking be banned in classrooms and lecture halls, in accordance with a Cambridge ordinance that went into effect last fall.

The resolution, adopted at the regular meeting of the fac- ulty on Wednesday, was promt- ed by the referendum question on the Undergraduate Associa- tion ballot last week which called for an end to smoking in classrooms. Students approved the question by a 5-1 margin.

Although MIT is not exempt from the ordinance, as President Jerome Wiesner pointed out at the meeting, there have been no noticeable efforts to enforce it within the Institute since it was passed on Sept. 15, 1975.

However, the Registrar's Office is ready to put up "No Smoking" signs within a few days, according to Professor of Mechanical Engineering David Wilson. Wilson, who is one of the faculty advisors to MIT Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), a group that lobbies for non-smokers' rights, added that ASH would supply the "No Smoking" signs at no cost.