**Taiwan**

President Vanier and Chancellor Gray have once again refused to be present at an open forum on the Taiwan question, even though it was made clear that they would not be expected to make a policy statement in defense of the program, but only answer students’ questions about their own role in the whole affair. Their refusal was based on the grounds that they did not have the full facts themselves on how the program was originally negated in 1974, nor had they any part in it. Consequently, they are going to wait until the Robbins Committee on International Commit-ments has finished its investigation. The forum will nonetheless be held, without them, tonight at 8pm in the Sala de Pueblo. See box this page.

We’re coming to the conclusion that the administration seems perfectly willing to stall on Taiwan until the end of the term when students are going to be preoccupied with passing exams to make any effort to influence the course of events. We’re going to be passing out questionnaires in the hallways to find out what action people think would be appropriate for the UA to take—let it wait, protest, investigate further, lobby Congresspeople, etc.

Bring them back or mail them to the UA office, W20-401.

**General Assembly**

Most aspects of student representation for the General Assembly have been finalized. Elections have been moved back a week and will be held on April 25th, with the first GA meeting to be held on May 3rd. Representation will be from living groups, proportionate to population, breaking down as follows:

- **Fraternities** - 30 representatives
- **Dormitories** - 54 "
- **New Faculty Students** - 16 "

Each fraternity will select one representative by whatever method it chooses. Elections of dorm representatives will be held by dorm, with each dorm figuring out its own appropriate mechanism. Dorm representation will be as follows (calculated on the basis of 1975-76 living group figures with allowance made for next year’s overcrowding):

- **Baker** - 8 representatives
- **Bexley** - 3 "
- **Burton** - 9 "
- **East Campus** - 10 "
- **MacGregor** - 8 "
- **McCormick** - 7 "
- **New House** - 7 "
- **Senior House** - 4 "

Procedures for electing non-resident student reps. have been worked out. We’ll publicize it when we do figure it out. Any suggestions or questions concerning GA elections should be directed to the appropriate living group.

---

**The ua news**

Taiwan

The Student Center Committee is planning a revi-val of the All Tech Sing. The Sing was a traditional event, sponsored each year by the now defunct Baton Society. It was designed to promote spirit and humor in song writing at the Institute. Along with performances by the regular musical groups, entering teams from the living groups and activities would compete in either the serious or humorous divisions, all composing songs about life at "Tech". The Sing was popular, but currently all that remains of it is a dentist chair in the Senior House balcony—an Egbert, or prize in the humorous division, from a past year.

Traditionally, the exact nature of the Egbert was kept secret until the night of the event. Egberts of the past included the dentist chair, a giant slide rule, and a stuffed beaver with a red tail. This year the Committee will be running a contest to see who can most accurately guess what the Egbert will be. The winner will receive a season’s pass to the Miltie Movies and a $5.99 gift certificate to the 24-hour Coffeehouse. Ballots can be cast at the Cof-feehouse.

Judges will include both administrators and faculty members, whose true identity, like that of the Egbert, will not be known until the event itself— to avoid bribery! The date of this year’s All Tech Sing will coincide with Kaleidoscope; it will be May 1 at 7:30pm in the Sala de Pueblo. Entry forms and rules can be obtained in the Coffeehouse. Any questions on the Sing should be directed to Katrina Wootton, 68262, x3-2696, or x3-3916.

**SCEP News**

In the spring of last year, the Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) distributed an opinion survey to all undergraduates. One surprising result was the discovery that a majority of those expressing an opinion favored establishment of a new Institute requirement in English Composition. Apparently, even the students believe that the quality of writing is no longer "acceptable.”

There are many arguments in favor of improving the writing ability of MIT students. Among these are:

1. Engineers and scientists need to be able to write clearly and effectively, possibly even more than do their colleagues in the liberal arts.
2. Greater ability in students’ writing would tend to upgrade the overall quality of all humanities courses.
3. Poor writing on the part of MIT graduates reflects badly on other graduates, and on the Institute.

Proposals abound for improving writing. One is to require a semester of English Composition for all undergraduates. There would be several options that would fulfill the requirement. One is to attend a class on a different level. As with all Institute requirements, demonstration of competence would exempt a student from the requirement. To derive the maximum possible benefit, the student should take the subject during the freshman year. Such a program would require about ten faculty members. It is doubtful that all these could be drawn from the present MIT faculty, however, local professional writers, and others, could also be used.

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact SCEP at x3-2170, W20-413 or the UA News at x3-2696, W20-403.

---

**MIT Ecology Action** is sponsoring a bike trip to the Arnold Arboretum, via the Fens. People who wish to participate should meet in front of the Student Center at 10am on Tuesday, April 20 (the last day of the four day weekend). Hope to see you there.

The MIT Auto Club will be running a beginners road rally on Sunday, May 2, Kaleidoscope weekend. The rally will run until 11pm, and wind up at Wellesley in time for the picnic there.

There will be at least two classes for the rally. Single car entries will be one car with two people; team entries will consist of two cars with two people in each, or one car with more than two people in it.

An entry fee of $3 per car will be used to purchase trophies.

A road rally school will be held at the Auto Club meeting April 25, Sunday, in room 491 of the Student Center at 7:30pm. Questions can be answered by David Schaller at 494-0076 or d9640.

NomComm has been undergoing a slight restruc- turing this past year, with the hope that it will be come better-organized and serve as a more effective communication link between the student body and student-faculty committees. The major points of restructuring are as follows:

A. Student terms on student-faculty committees are to be for one year (with the exception of the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee—two year terms). All other refer- ences to student terms in Rules and Regulations of Faculty are to one year terms. The term of NomComm is not to expire on the same day. Students who are nominated by NomComm will be asked to return in one year to discuss present and past committee activities and to apply for renomina- tion, if so interested.

B. Under the provisions in (A) a permanent schedule will be set up, to go into effect next semester, whereby each student-faculty committee associated with NomComm will be scheduled for one hearing each school year, at ap- proximately the same time each year, although special hearings at other dates could be ar- ranged. At that time, present student commit- tee members would be asked to discuss their activities/involvement in an open meeting, and nominations to the committee for the following year would be made by NomComm, selecting from those students present at the hearing.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT UA NEWS.)

For information about the hearing, or for comments, questions, etc., about NomComm, contact the UA office at x3-2696 or Stan Martin at 267-2867.