GA report questions MIT's budget

By Mark James

Tuition forms too large a part of MIT's fundraising and should be replaced in part by alternative sources, according to a report of the General Assembly (GA) Committee on the Institute Budget.

The report was released at a GA meeting held Wednesday night. No formal action was taken at the meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

The report makes several specific recommendations on fundraising alternatives:

- "MIT should increase its goal for contributions to the scholarship fund from $10 million to $20 million, and place some additional emphasis on achieving" this goal.

- "The Institute should sell the Simplex property, and invest the receipts from the sale to generate revenue aimed at slowing the rate of tuition increase."

- "Half of MIT's $20 million "rainy day" surplus income should be used to help control tuition."

- "The rate of tuition and equity level increases should either be tied to inflation or, preferably, to a rate of increase in median family income."

- "The balance of payments is shifting toward us (the students)" said committee member Thomas Gindin '77, who suggested that students should be included in the membership of the Academic Council, the group that decides the class size and tuition rate.

A more detailed look at the report will be presented next Tuesday in The Tech as the first part of a series analyzing different views of the MIT financial situation.

The GA has not achieved a quorum since its meeting of Oct. 6, to discuss the LSC-SACC nominations. Undergraduate Association (UA) President Phillip Moore '77 echoed complaints by many members about the GA's instability to function, saying "Let's try to fix up a quorum next time, or shut up shop."

No action.

- GA members present at the meeting expressed their approval for new bylaws for the Nominations Committee (Nomcom), which is responsible for nominating students to MIT Committees. The new rules would make GA approval necessary for the appointment of new members of Nomcom and to all hoc institute committees, and allow the GA to review other nominations. Nomcom is now operating without GA approval for its nominations before the GA resumed meeting last year.

- Moore announced that an MIT food coop is being organized. A meeting on the subject was held Tuesday, and another is planned for next Wednesday.

- UA Secretary-General Charles Shoshan '77 said that April 13 is the tentative date for UA elections.

Student action urged by state Rep. Noble

By Thomas J. Spiskak

Schools lost the myth that a student's first responsibility is to the university, Representative Elaine Noble of Boston's Sixth Suffolk District charged Tuesday during a lecture here sponsored by the Association for Women Students.

Noble, speaking on Women in Politics, said students have a responsibility to the community as well as to the university. "You must contribute to the environment in which you live, work, and learn."

"You were born political," she asserted. "Sometimes people have the luxury of avoiding dealing with politics until they find themselves a victim [of] the process."

"But by staying out of the political process we elect the pigs we don't want. Niceno was elected by the lowest majority turnover ever," she maintained. "Everyone has the responsibility to get involved."

Noble likened her role in "dealing with the last bastion of power, politics until they find themselves a victim [of] the process."

"By staying out of the political process we elect the pigs we don't want. Niceno was elected by the lowest majority turnover ever," she maintained. "Everyone has the responsibility to get involved."

By Bob Wasserman

Cockroaches will continue to plague Dormitories in the future, despite the efforts of professional exterminators contracted by the MIT Housing Office.

Bob Shaw, of the MIT Housing Office, cited several reasons for the cockroach infestation of the dormitories. The basic problem, he said, is "the lack of housekeeping" by MIT students and the general weaknesses attributed to food in kitchens and rooms. Shaw disclosed that older buildings have an additional cockroach problem due to "more cracks and crevices" but added that all dorms are infested. Several exterminating companies are employed by the Housing Office and in general these were praised by Shaw. The exterminators spray liquid chemicals in the dorms which are varied from year to year so that the cockroaches will not become immune to the poison. The strength of the exterminators used is limited due to federal regulations, a factor which Shaw said helps the complete extermination of the cockroaches.

Shaw explained that each dorm room is completely sprayed with insectsics each summer when occupancy is lowest, usually once, but two times if necessary. Certain areas are sprayed periodically during the rest of the year, and a complete spraying can be done during the fall or spring terms "as deemed necessary by house managers from the complaints of residents," said Shaw.

House managers of several MIT dorms, including Burton, McCormick, MacGregor, East Campus, and Senior House, agreed with Shaw's appraisal of the competence of the exterminating companies. Most areas are sprayed bi-weekly or weekly in areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, sleep sinks, trash areas, and laundry rooms. Individual rooms are often sprayed by request, and floors and suites uninfested by the pests are frequently sprayed by the exterminators.

One of the many cockroaches that infest MIT dormitories. This one managed to escape the chemical insecticides of the exterminators long enough to produce a new swarm of progeny.

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UPDATE

The nomination of MIT Professor Frank Press to the post of Science Adviser to the President remains open, and unconfirmed, two weeks after a Washington Post report that he had been offered the job. Press could not be reached for comment.

CAMPUS

Professor of Physics Arthur K. Kerman has been appointed director of MIT's Theoretical Physics. Kerman, who joined the MIT faculty in 1956, succeeds Francis E. Low, Karl Taylor Compton Professor of Physics.

MIT scientists have taken a significant step towards the harnessing of fusion energy. Researchers at the National Magnetic Laboratory, in wayland, have improved the ability to contain extremely hot fusion fuel (plasma) very close to the condition required for "breakeven," the threshold where the fusion energy released equals the energy used to create the plasma.

The long-term effects of oil spills on the environment and on resort business appear minimal according to Dean A. Hore, Director of the MIT Sea Grant Program. Hore and a group of Grant researchers have been analyzing and evaluating the spills during World War II from tankers for their "historical and present-day effects on shoreline ecology."

NATION

The United States Supreme Court ruled on a case of alleged "reverse discrimination" that a white applicant to a California medical school claims he was denied admission solely because of his race. A California court ruling held that minority student quotas were unconstitutional by virtue of the 14th Amendment, which, said the court, affords equal protection to "any person."