New, old problems for admissions

By Stephen Besen

In an attempt to eliminate some of the problems that occurred last year, the MIT Admissions office has moved up the acceptance notification date from April 15 to March 24.

However, MIT must contend with a new problem, the record number of applicants applying for financial aid. The financial aid situation, combined with the new notification date, has clouded this year's admissions picture.

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 told The Tech that MIT decided to switch from the common Ivy League admissions date of April 15 to the earlier date because last year's yield — the percentage of admissions offers accepted — was low. He added that the low yield could have been a direct result of the late notification date.

UI President Phil Moore said that he could not "see the difference" between the two dates. Richardson's figures showed that the March 24 mailing will enable MIT students to secure the names of admittances in their home areas. He said he encourages all students to "go out and talk to people and help them make a choice."

Another key admissions issue is the increased tuition and the impact it will have on the entire MIT population.

The more students who apply for financial aid will mean that the amount of financial aid which costs at MIT and at any other private school are small numbers," he said. Moore declared that "the point is whether a student can afford to go to any private school in this class."

He also noted that a general trend away from expensive private schools may have already begun. Howard Shrobe G., former editor of The Graduate said that "if tuition keeps going up, they may exclude anyone but the elite."

The increased number of students applying for financial aid may be a direct result of the steady tuition rise over the last decade. The total number of students who have applied to MIT this year is 3,400 and 4,500, while the number requesting financial aid is approximately 3,700. Moore said that figure is higher than average.

Bulger also noted that "there will be a substantial increase in the amount of money provided for financial aid," but added, "we don't know how much."

House panel restores Federal loan funds

By William Lasser

A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee recommended Monday that $300 million be appropriated in fiscal year 1979 for National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), disregarding President Carter's proposal to end all funding for the program.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Human Resources. chaired by Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.), voted to reduce the request for NDSL funding from fiscal year 1977's figure of $330 million. According to a recent analysis by the Government Accounting Office, the NDSL program must not be eliminated. He added, "At MIT we would have no reason to turn to cover the losses of NDSL funds."

Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.), decried the proposed cuts, saying that "the amount which would have to be made up by earnings or guaranteed loans."

Pressman dead at 33

By Drew Blakeman

Jeffrey L. Pressman, associate professor of political science, died Tuesday night after he apparently fell from a ninth-floor window of the Essex Hotel, Boston Police reported. He was 33.

A memorial service will be held in Kresge Auditorium yesterday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Many of Pressman's former colleagues spoke to the several hundred people in attendance.

Professor Byron Weinre, head of the Department of Political Science, said that Pressman "was an extraordinary teacher who was highly regarded by all of his students. There is simply no way of exaggerating the rapport with his students." Among the subjects Pressman taught was "Introduction to the American Political Process," 17.31, one of the most popular courses at the Institute. It was selected for the MIT Graduate Student Council Teaching Award in 1975.

A native of Los Angeles, Pressman received a B.A. in 1965 and held a Henry Fellowship at Oxford University in 1966-67. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967 and 1972 respectively. He became an assistant professor at Dartmouth College in 1979 and was appointed to the MIT faculty as an assistant professor in 1973. He was promoted to associate professor in 1975.

Pressman is survived by his wife, Kate; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Pressman of Buffalo, N.Y.; and a sister, Adele, of Palo Alto, Calif.