It's official; Carter nominates Press

By William Larson

Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences Frank Press has been nominated to the Science Advisor to President Carter. The long-awaited action on the science post came Friday when Carter made official a Feb. 12 report in The Washington Post that the 53-year-old geophysicist would assume the position of director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, pending near-unanimous Senate approval. His salary will be $57,500 a year.

Hearing on the nomination will be held in about two weeks by the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.). The full Senate will consider the appointment shortly thereafter. A spokesman for Senator Kennedy's office said that "no problems at all" were expected.

The nomination has not met with widespread acclaim. MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner said The Post in February that Press "would make a very good science advisor." The Boston Globe, in an editorial, said that the appointment "marks a refreshing change from the overconcentration of the science age and the underemphasis of all science since the most profligate period." Press becomes the third MIT

Higher grades bad?

By Mark James

The data recently presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading does demonstrate the phenomenon of grade inflation, but it shows that this phenomenon occurred mainly in the 1960s, not the 1970s. Average grades of seniors were essentially level from 1945 through 1960. In 1961, for reasons that are hotly debated and widely agreed upon, these grades began heading steadily upward, peaking in the early seventies. Economic discussion of "grade inflation" also became popular only in the time, and general awareness of the "problem" may be part of the reason for the recent rising_evaluates. Another part of the report shows a wide discrepancy between different departments in grading.

The percentage of A's recorded varies from 31 to 59 departmental ranges were omitted from the report. A similar variation in grading continues. While grade inflation is not unique to MIT, the figures in a cumulative averages. While grade inflation is not unique to MIT, the figures in a cumulative averages. While grade inflation is not unique to MIT, the figures in a

Students, MIT officials talk with Pei Nevelson

By Mark James

Representing the MIT administration and a student committee comprised of MIT students Louise Nevelson last Wednesday in New York City to discuss the issues surrounding the placement of Nevelson's sculpture "Transparent Horizons." Roger Powell '77, chair of the committee of students, told the sculptor that he considers the placement of her sculpture to be a win-win situation for MIT and the students.

"Roger Pei told the students that the sculpture would be placed above and within a specified region around the building. This area included part of the area between the East Campus and the MIT Sloan Building.

Concluding Powell, he told the group that the painting of the sculpture was below the level of behavior to be expected of Harvard and MIT students. Pei, chair of the Ralph W. Landau Chemical Engineering Building, told the group that he was told by MIT that the sculpture would be placed anywhere within a specified region around the building. This area included part of the area between the East Campus parallel.

According to Powell, it was not clear what the students were interested in differentiating more between students who do well and students who do not, (Please turn to page 5)