Professors ask for Writing Inquiry

By William Lasser

A group of faculty members has urged the appointment of a committee of the Institute faculty to "review the background and present status of the controversial Student Writing Program."" In a letter dated April 14 to the Chairman of the Faculty John Ross, professor of Chemistry, nine members of the faculty from various schools and departments also asked that no actions contrary to the major recommendations of the Sivin Report be taken "until the faculty has a whole approved a plan for writing instruction of MIT."" Signers of the letter, copies of which were sent to President Jerome Wiesner, Provost Walter Rosenblith, and Dean of the School of Humanities Harold B. Koretz, include Professors of Biology Donald F. Bers, Salvatore Luria, and Professor of Physics Philip Morrison. In addition, Professor of Physics A.P. French, Professor of Chemistry Daniel Kemp, Professor of Mathematics Arthurr Mat-tuck and two others signed in- stead a separate statement which declared that while they are "not ready to endorse the recommendations of the Sivin Committee," they "believe that... the impor-
tance of the issues raised requires at least institute-wide discussion, and probably resolution by the faculty as a whole." This statement was not yet seen by the Sivin Report.

One of the signers, Assistant Professor of Humanities Murray Biggs, told The Tech that, while the group recognized that the Sivin Report was not binding and that it would not have been sent to the faculty as a matter of course, they believed that "the is-sue has come for the faculty to be opened up to the faculty at large," especially in light of the recent US arms limita-
tions to the East, "the import-
tance of the issues towards the Writing Program," Biggs said of the signers, "and it's not our business to get into the fine details of the Program or its personnel. We are simply trying to put the whole de-
cision of writing in MIT in a context that insures maximum benefit to both students and faculty.

Berke garners wide-margined victory

By David B. Koretz

Peter Berke '78 and Nancy Hart '78 were elected UAP and UAP Wednesday by a 137-vote margin on the fourth ballot. Berke and Hart '61 garnered 351 first-place votes while the other three tickets were in a virtual deadlock behind. The Marty Herman '79, Jim Dunlay '79 and Paul Machol '78 ticket, Jerry Scheinman '79 slates had 235 votes each, while Cindy Cole '76 and Fritz Banke '78 were just behind with 230. By the time the preferential bal-
looting system found the eventual winners, Berke and Hart '61 had 476 votes to the 339 of Herman and Dunlay. Berke told The Tech that he was "very disappointed" that "not many voted." The election drew 1175 undergraduates, only 28 percent of the number eligible. He said that he and Hart were "running for a little bit more than," referring as well to the 476 votes they received. "We're trying to do something, to make MIT a wonderful a place to be as it should be. We might have failed."

On the brighter side, however, Berke promised that for his first official act, he would see that "all the leaves are on the trees within two weeks." Other candidates expressed similar feelings about the relative-
ly small numbers of votes. "I wish him luck and I'm appalled at the turnout," Malachi told The Tech.

Mid-income families get loans

By Bob Wasserman

MIT will implement a loan program for mid-income families beginning next year. Students whose family annual in-
come is between $15,000 and $60,000 will be eligible for the program.

The Parent Loan Plan (PLP) will be administered by the Office of Financial Aid and Student Loans. Proceeds of PLP loans will be given to parents of first-year students in the form of a single lump sum of $3000, which can be divided among all children. The PLP plan and payments for the program were sent out to perspective members of the class of 1981 this week. The PLP provides for monthly payments of educational expenses, financing may be applied for in amounts between $5000 and $5000 per year. The annual interest rate for the loans will in-
clude 8.75 percent, later sub-
ject to a small increase due to in-
fiation. Another concept of the PLP is an extended period of install-
ments, allowing for payments lasting for up to six and a half years for a four-year educational program. The opportunity for re-
assured loan covers rising in-
MFT tuition and expenses will be given at each academic year to parents in the program. The plan also and receiving financial aid may opt for a small amount of self-help with their parent com-
pensation by borrowing a larger amount of aid under P.L. The amount of financing for families of financial aid students may ex-
tend up to the expected parental contribution of costs.

John A. Currie, Director of Finance, stated the PLP "intends to start off slowly, as no one knows what the exact magnitude of the program will be. The Finance Office along with David S. Wible of the Analytical Studies and Planning Group created the program for the Office of Finan-
cial Aid this spring." The "Parent Loan Plan," com-
nented Currie, "was first proposed because of concern by the Executive Committee and President Jerome K. Wiesner, about the lack of support for families ge-
cared to the middle-income family.

Carrie cited other advantages to the Parent Loan Plan. "Com-
mencement loan plans for parents have been available always," he said. (Please turn to page 5.)