East Campus residents protest tutor decision

By William Lancer

The residents of 5th West East Campus have expressed concern over the refusal of the Dean for Student Affairs (DSA) Office to approve their selection of David V.G. Smith '78 as a tutor (graduate resident). Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Alice Seelinger explained that Smith was not allowed to submit a formal application because, as an undergraduate, he was ineligible.

Seelinger told The Tech that there was no precedent for the appointment of anyone who had not received a bachelor's degree or who was not working towards the completion of simultaneous graduate and undergraduate degrees.

In a letter to Seelinger the residents of 5th West charged that Smith was "being discriminated against because he does not have the arbitrary label 'graduate' though he is fully qualified as any to be a hall tutor." Smith, who was originally admitted to MIT in 1972, took time off in early 1975, returning last November.

The 5th West residents, in a petition signed by 40 of the 43 floor members, declared that they would accept no tutor other than Smith, and asked for the "reassessment of the graduate-undergraduate classification as the absolute and final basis for tutor assignment." Seelinger said that she saw no change ahead in the DSA's policy.

Seelinger added that the Dean's Office would not force 5th West to accept a tutor whom they did not approve. "We don't like it," she said, "but there is precedent for a floor having no tutor."

Furor created by 15.301 survey

By David B. Koretz

A questionnaire distributed for a managerial psychology laboratory course caused some concern among members of the Writing Program this week, but apparently their fears were unjustified.

The survey, which four students sent to Humanities Distribution profsors for their students was intended to ascertain students' views on expository writing. "We are not working with or for the Writing Program. It's just unfortunate that people are overlooking," he said.

The course is taught by Professor Thomas Allen of the Department of Management. He admitted that the survey was "stacked a little bit towards positive responses." Allen said that it was his fault that it wasn't corrected earlier, and that he now realized it will be "a little less likely" that someone will indicate a negative response, or favor something other than expository writing courses.