UROP program continues successfully

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up her UROP experience by say-
ing, "I think I may have discovered something special."

Next fall, Cambridge, Wellesley class of '78, came to UROP look-
ing to enhance her pre-medical training. Having just returned from a summer spent working at the Children's Hospital but she remains a contact with the MIT biology department. Through her UROP project she discovered that she did not want to go into surgery.

AWARE attempts unionization

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raise each year just to stay even with the cost of living," asserted James Bluestone, a member of the AWARE organizing committee. "This index would not be misleadingly labeled 'merit'; it should be guaranteed to all workers whose performance is satisfactory."

We estimated that the raises did exceed the cost of living increases. We noted that AWARE's new computed Department of Labor statistics which showed a 3.73 percent rise in the Boston area cost of living index for calendar 1976 — but stated that "MIT is not able and has not taken the position of pegging its raises to the cost of living."

"This index is compiled in a way that's not as sophisticated as most think," said Bluestone for determining actual living expenses. "We added it. He asserted that "over the past six years, MIT's increases have exceeded the cost of living increases, but we can't guarantee it."

Bluestone said that at the suggestion of the Working Group on Office Political Issues, MIT has experimented with allocating a fixed amount of money for general and merit increases. In 1975 and 1976, but "people thought that was too confusing," he asserted that the Working Group, composed of 13 staff employees and 17 biweekly employees, was created to make recommendations to improve the April 1976 review, and has been retained to make recommendations relating to the biweekly work environment, according to Bluestone.

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Union Drive

AWARE has a "definite solution in mind that would make the power [of the administration and office staffs] as a gift" to UROP. "AWARE would like to file for an election to have District 65 of the Distributive Workers of America become the representative of MIT's office employees," the election may not be held for a while. Billane said that some employees "feel prestige working at MIT and don't want to tamper with that by joining a union." She said there were other reasons for hesitation among some employees to join the organizing effort. Greenhouse added that there is a high turnover rate among clerical workers. "There are people who know they're not going to stay for more than a year, and don't care about the union, don't even want to think about it."

"The drive is loss active than it was because...we realized the next step of the group was to try to organize," Greenhouse commen-
ted. "We decided to stop dwelling ourselves unrealistically for something that was not going to happen as quickly as we had hoped." Billane noted that organizing 1,500 clerical workers at one time would be an "unprecedented" accomplishment.

"It's a very strange for people to think they have control over their work situations."

Greenhouse noted, 'It's especially new for women to think they have control 85 percent of MIT's bi-
weekly workers are women, and especially for women in clerical positions."

She said that factory workers "are really being organized "and that has a lot to do with why a very tough factory worker makes a lot more money than the average clerk."