More students survive MIT today

By Barbara J. Hill
Since the 1950's, when 1 in 3 MIT students failed to complete their undergraduate years, the chances that students will survive the Institute have improved immensely. The change is due primarily to the new attitudes of the Committee on Academic Performance (CAP). According to the CAP's "Report to the Faculty, April 20, 1977?"
1. MIT has adopted a more lenient view toward minimum academic achievement 2. The students are presumably under less pressure from the threat of required withdrawal 3. When we err, it is probably on the side of leniency. That is, there are probably more students who are allowed to continue who should be required to withdraw than there are students who are required to withdraw who should really be allowed to continue.

Professor Greytak, head of the CAP, explained the change saying that instead of trying to eliminate the lower seven to eight percent of MIT's students yearly, the Committee now assumes that the MIT population is the finest to begin with, and that withdrawal should be handled on an individual basis. While MIT's withdrawal rate of almost eight percent in 1970 was high compared to other leading schools, MIT's present rate of two percent is comparable to elite schools. State colleges have high dropout rates; while the more selective schools tend to keep their unfortunate students for academic reasons in a given year.

By William C. Johnson
Senator Frank Church (D-I.) asked Monday night that the Carter administration's plan to postpone the United States' development of the breeder reactor in order to encourage other countries to do the same is unrealistic and certain to fail.

Speaking to an audience of about 150, Church called on the president to reverse himself and, instead, to commit the United States to a role of leadership in the development of plutonium power plants and fuel reprocessing facilities both here and abroad. He said that "The breeder program is the only technology now on the horizon which holds the promise of relieving Europe and Japan of their unending dependence upon foreign-held fuel supplies."

According to Senator Church, by intentionally slowing down our breeder program and urging others to do the same, we run "the grave risk of leaving an international vacuum which is in invitation to nuclear anarchy." (Please turn to page 3)

By David R. Kowes
The publication in the April 28 issue of Thursday of a controver-
sical article entitled "Consumer Guide to MIT Men" has prompted President Jerome Wiesner to call for a "review of the status as a recognized student activity."

Wiesner's statement, published in Tech Talk Tuesday, came after a day of meetings on Tuesday with members of the Dean's Office and representatives from Thursday.

The article, which contained two women's rankings of over 30 sex partners they claim to have had over the last five years, was attacked in the statement as having been "found extraordinarily offensive and a gross violation of our norms of taste and of regard for privacy."

Wiesner has asked the Dean for Student Affair to initiate the review through the Association of Student Activities (ASA) in addition to the review process of the Faculty Committee on Discipline (COD).

"The associate dean explained that "there has been a tremendous outpouring of feeling, on the part of students and the community as a whole."

MIT News Producer Bill Johnson '79 said that he does not think that this administration will affect other campus media. He added that he was "surprised at how strong the statement was. I think they've given them one hell of a scare already."

"Report to the Faculty, April 20, 1977"