Russians win College Bowl

By George Cann and Richmond Cohen

In the second MIT College Bowl held a week ago Tuesday night, Russian House soundly defeated Cognoscenti 235 to 85. Previously, Russian House had convincingly defeated Children of Darkness, 335 to 90, in the semi-finals. The contest was held before a large audience in Kresge Auditorium and was televised on MIT. The College Bowl Committee, who had provided the questions for the General Electric Company-sponsored television College Bowl, furnished the questions for MIT's miniature replica of the game. For the first time, the Bowl, which is sponsored by the MIT library, was open to all members of the MIT community.

The contest began three weeks ago when the individual members of each team took a preliminary exam. Out of the 64 teams who took the exam, the four teams who compiled the highest scores, Russian House, Cognoscenti, three of whom were from the Personnel Office, Baker Union, and Children of Darkness (two members of the MIT debate team and their coaches), went on to the semi-finals. Russian House had the highest score in the preliminary exams, totaling 396 points out of a possible 672 points. Team captain Brett Grieve '80 had the highest individual score, scoring 125 points out of 168. After their victory, the members of Russian House revealed that they had prepared for the contest by watching many hours of videotapes of one of their member's high school College Bowl, as well as studying some trivia books. The questions, however, were not trivia questions. They tested the contestants' general knowledge of a wide diversity of topics, ranging from literature to geography and from religion to physics.

The event's emcee, Ed Diamond, a senior lecturer in Political Science, added a touch of humor to the tension of the contest. Except for a minor problem with the scoring, the proceedings ran smoothly under the judging of Professor Eileen Harris, Senior Professor Alvin Ifiber, and Mariner Rowe. By George Cann and Richmond Cohen

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