Wrapping it all up for the outgoing seniors

The article from which the following is excerpted originally ran in the special Commencement issue of The Tech. The editors felt that a review of some of the events of the past four years would be appropriate for incoming freshmen as for outgoing seniors.

By David B. Korets

It began with an indoor Freshman Picnic almost four years ago, and it's ending with what may be MIT's last indoor Commencement.

In the 45 months between, the class of 1978 grew up at a time when more exciting events happened on campus than at any time since the beginning of the decade. These years have been called the 'Concerned Seventies,' and the class of 1978 has been better prepared for the world than possibly any other class in the Institute's history.

At the end of August, 1974, some 1,053 freshmen arrived on campus eager to have our eyes opened and perspectives broadened.

Closerto home, we saw Gerald Ford battling Jimmy Carter. Once Carter accepted victory, he carried some spoils of war in his pockets.

Once Carter emerged victorious, the class of '78 saw the oil boycott, the Watergate investigation, and Lincoln Lab's Gerald Dennen (dit not Petroleum Engineering's Kent Hansen). These were not the only members of the community to depart, but many others have taken their leave tragically. There is little that quickens personal reflection more than the sudden departure of a close friend. During the past four years, we have lost five classmates.

In March, 1975, the campus was stunned when John Asinari was brutally murdered while hitchhiking over the Harvard Bridge, and his companion Robert Mower was seriously beaten. The following summer, a Brazilian graduate student died in a Tang Hall fire.

In September, 1974, Local 254 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) went on strike against MIT; they were soon joined by the members of the Cooks' Association in a strike that lasted almost a month. (Photo by Tom Kimmicoff)

The class of 1978 saw the growth of their campus. One of the least important aspects of campus life was all right-the dormitory service. Course 23, Course 6 tutorials, and Tech Engineering News. The first three persisted through the Institute's efforts to cut expenditures and balance its budget; 7th could not survive a lack of interest that set in shortly after the recession of the 1970's.

All has not been sad, though. This year's seniors were around for the opening of new homes for Draper Labs and the Chemical Engineering Department, a new McDonald's, a new dormitory (New Hoos), an old new dormitory (Randalls Hall), a new old dormitory (Bexley Hall renovation), a newspaper (The Beamer), a new football team, and the highly touted, much maligned New College.

Full term, 1974, the end of the first week. The traumas of our first money. Cleaning services and inter-

departmental mail were elimi-
nated, and telephone service slowed, as operators and repair-
ners honored picket lines. The SCC coffeehouse and the Tech Coop were not getting many of their deliveries, as truck drivers demurred.

Depart, but many others have

The trauma of our first weeks has been replaced with perspectives broadened. By David B. Korets

For the rest of the spring semester students and faculty debated the question of MIT's responsibility in dealing with foreign governments. The sponsors of the plan and their supporters insisted that MIT had a vital role to play in developing worldwide technology and industrialization. Opponents of the deal charged the Shah of Iran with brutality against his enemies, and claimed that MIT was "selling admissions."

At the end of April, some 300 people met at an anti-Iran deal rally on Kresge Plaza, and then marched to the Building 24 headquarters of the Nuclear Engineering Department for a one hour demonstration and sit-in. In May, Charles Kindleberger was appointed to head an ad hoc...