U.S.-Chinese relations discussed

By Gardner Hunter

MIT should be used as an academic model by the People's Republic of China, according to Walter A. Rosenblith, one of the speakers at the Symposium on US-China Relations Monday; added that MIT should not be copied by the emerging institutions so as to allow China to cultivate its own educational philosophies and traditions.

Rosenblith dealt mainly with what he called the "basically positive problems" involved with academic exchanges between the two countries now that relations have been normalized.

Rosenblith explained that China wants to include academic research and development institutions in their plan for modernization, something that MIT has participated in for other countries. He said that he saw a latent, "enormous reservoir" of academicians in China that could benefit both countries, if they were developed.

One difficulty with the exchange of students is that the academic roles in the two countries differ, according to Rosenblith. He said that if mutual benefits are to be gained by exchanges, the people involved must meet certain prerequisites, for example, a working knowledge of both the everyday and technical languages to be used.

Rosenblith suggested that only a few students should be involved with the exchange at first so that experience can be gained regarding the selection of the participants for the maximum benefit to both the United States and China. He also suggested that participants should attend classes and talk to students to help understand the academic philosophy.

The staff director of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with China, Mary Bullock of Stanford University, also spoke about the student exchange program with China. She said that some exchange students have already been sent to their assignments. She added that while programs for Chinese students here have been worked out, the programs for American students in China are still unknown. Bullock announced that the second deadline for applications to become involved with the exchange program is February 9.

The larger issues of normalization of relations between the United States and China were discussed by Ford International Professors of Political Science Lucian Pye and William Griffith.

SIPB course sparks interest in LISP

By Kent Pienas

Over 200 eager students showed up Monday for the first lecture of Bernard Greenberg's IAP course, "A Radical Introduction to Lisp." The course in the Lisp computer language is now in its fourth year, and represents Greenberg's alternative to the traditional approach to Lisp which one might receive in 6.030 or 6.031.

Despite the fact that Lisp has been in existence now for about 20 years, it is still caught on in the business world like COBOL and Fortran. "Most compiler programs written in the world are simply not existing," says Greenberg, so COBOL and Fortran can handle them. As the attendance figures show, interest in Lisp at MIT is on the rise. Last year 50 students had been expected but 100 appeared, overflowing the space of the lecture hall. This year, the lectures are being held in 10-230, with a larger lecture hall. After the class, several members of the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB), overjoyed at the turnout, were heard to mutter, "Techies are still around.

Greenberg explained how he arrived at what he feels is the basic structure of the language. He did not learn it in a class. Some officemates of his happened to be writing a version of MacLisp for Multics and offered to teach it to him. Now he is in charge of maintaining that version of Lisp.

All of the existing approaches either than his own are either too "uninteresting" or too "functional" in their approach, said Greenberg. They get bogged down in formal definitions and ignore certain features about the more basic elements of data structure, which he feels are much more important. By beginning of the course, with the help of the set of notes he has been building and revising for several years, he hopes to take his students "through the construction of a reasonably complex program.

There is lab time associated with the course, provided by SIPB. About 75 percent of the students applied for an account on Multics, each of whom will receive fifty dollars worth of time on Multics to practice what Greenberg is practicing.

"Pooching!" About halfway through the lecture, one student asked if this would be put in a book. Greenberg smiled unenthusiastically. He is trying to convert everyone to his way of thinking: speaking to a computer by a computer with a Lisp.

Services to honor Martin Luther King

By Michael Taviss

MIT will hold services honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this Friday. The ceremonies will begin with a silent march at approximately noon from 32 Vassar Street to Kresge Auditorium. After the invocation and two musical selections, the Reverend Melvin G. Brown of the Union Baptist Church in Cambridge will deliver the keynote address. After the address there will be a benediction and then a reception in the Mazinette Lounge of the Student Center.

Dr. King, an outspoken champion of civil rights, was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee at the age of 39. The Institute will officially observe the tribute by Dr. King on Monday-January 15 in observance of his birthday.

The theme of the Reverend Brown's address on Friday will be "The Dream: What Will We Overcome?" The services were organized by the Minority Interest Group and the Office of the President and Chancellery. Josephine M. Bartie, who is connected with the Office of the President and Chancellery and is the co-chairman of the Minority Interest Group, will be the master of ceremonies. She said that members of the MIT community are encouraged to gather in Lobby 7 at 11:45 to participate in the silent march and the ensuing services.

"We are welcome," according to Ms. Bartie. She added that, "This is a religious service. This is just to make sure that the keynote speaker is a minister,..."

The invocation and the benediction will be given by Reverend Kathleen M. Ganson, also of the Union Baptist Church. This is the fifth year that MIT is honoring King in this manner.