IAP — part of the routine

By Joel West

"Routine" seemed to be the best way to describe this year's Independent Activities Period, at least in the opinion of the people involved in monitoring IAP.

"Most of the things seemed to come off pretty well," noted graduate student Bob Chen '76, a member of the IAP Policy Committee. He based his observation on attendance at various activities, conversations with fellow students, and an IAP feedback session held January 24.

At that meeting, according to Chen, several faculty members, including Physics Professor Thomas Greytak, expressed dissatisfaction with the current structure and usage of the 3'1/2 week session. Some felt that many outside activities were not making best use of the period, while others objected to the loss of a week from the first semester.

Jane Sauer, manager of the IAP Office, felt that MIT's emphasis on making student pressures more manageable would prevent elimination of IAP. To find out how successful this year's IAP was, her office will be sending out questionnaires to activity leaders, while the Policy Committee will be polling students and faculty.

Sauer felt things were "easier this year because we didn't have any snowstorms," a reference to last winter's two record-breaking snowfalls. Chen echoed her sentiments that the good weather seemed to have helped, acting that some activities were "stuffed with people." His own half-day seminar on the hazards of liquified natural gas (LNG) and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) drew an estimated 70-80 people, though press coverage was not what he had hoped.

Another popular activity was a lecture given by Louis Menaud, a senior lecturer in the Political Science Department. The talk's discussion of the concepts of constitutional law, was part of a week introduction to law course organized by Jeffrey Meldman of the Sloan School. The turnout of 70 people was particularly appreciated by Menaud's role as part of the IAP Administration Committee.

Sauer mentions the work of the Policy Committee as "being prettier too." One of its important decisions was to have IAP activities be "unofficial" and for MIT to provide facilities for such an activity.

Low made head of LNS

By William Cimino

Thomas F. Jones, MIT's vice-president of research, has recently announced the appointment of Karl Taylor Compton Professor of Physics Francis E. Low, to the directorship of the Laboratory of Nuclear Science (LNS).

Low succeeds Professor Martin Deutsch, who has been the director of LNS since his appointment in March of 1973. Deutsch shared the 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics with Prof. Samuel Ting for work involving the discovery of the J particle. He will be returning to a career of teaching and research.

Low was a visiting professor at MIT in 1956 after serving as a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University and as a faculty member at the University of Illinois. He was appointed to the MIT faculty in 1957 and held both Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships while lecturing at the University of Rome. He also served as the director of the Center for Theoretical Physics at MIT from 1973 to 1977.

Low received the B.S. degree from Harvard College in 1942 and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1949.

As director of LNS, Low will coordinate research facilities at the Bates Linear Accelerator in Middleton, Mass., Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island New York, the linear accelerator at Lawrence Livermore, and the CERN Laboratories in Geneva and the German High energy synchrotron in Hamburg.

MIT cable adds programs

By Joel West

Is an effort to supplement its customary lecture-oriented offerings, MIT Cable will be experimenting with a new programming format this month.

The 119th Check-In Tuesday on Ten, will be inaugurated today, with host W. John Lammin '78, of the Center for Advanced Engineering Studies' Video Services. The weekly offerings include a science documenton at 7pm, followed by the MIT Video News at 7:30, with entertainments shows beginning at 8pm.

The Video News marks the return of an old favorite: a TV campus news show. A successful show was once produced by MIT in 1965 but had fallen into oblivion and was later rescued by the Video Club. This week's show will feature stories on Tech Show, Varsity basketball, and the recent plans for the return of Tech's bands. Lammin noted a preponderence of volunteers for the technical aspects of the show, but noted that the writing and reporting staffs were still in need of people.

The movie of-the-week, tentatively named Coor Palmer will draw on the archives of the University Film Center, with the emphasis on video-taped conversion being done by Video Services. Tonight's double feature will begin at 9:30 with Alfred Hitchcock's 39 Steps followed by the Buster Keaton short Cops.

This week's most promising offering, however, is The Lost Cookie running under the "MIT Playhouse" slot. The 82-minute film, beginning at 8pm, revolves around four Harvard fresh during their first term of college. The roommates are a grab-bag of readily identifiable stereotypes: a laid-back San Francisco, a South Boston Irish-Catholic, a hockey jack who shuffles women in and out, and a pre-school graduate who seems fond of synthetic substances. The film, though cliché at times, is definitely first-rate student work.

Low, Francis E. Low (Photo by Calvin Campbell, courtesy MIT News Office)