Change UA election date

To the Editor:

The present UA procedure of electing officers each April, for a one year term effective immediately, creates many unnecessary problems. Under the existing system freshmen have offices for only one month, senior officers who plan senior week are often no longer in office at the end of their last semester and the UA in work require excessive preparation beginning in February of the graduation year. Yet, in April of the senior year, a new set of "permanent" class officers are elected who become officers just prior to senior week.

Often, these officers have not been active previously in organizing these functions and many people who have made significant contributions to the success of senior week are no longer in office. This produces apathy and results in the UA being forced into a lame duck position until the end of its term expiring in April of their senior year, a new set of "representatives" for the freshmen class has arrived, the class is not usually perceived as representing the class... (they) are viewed in this manner by the MIT Administration. Presently, the freshmen class has these "representatives" for only one month...

forced into a lame duck position for the spring semester. These difficulties could be easily eliminated by changing the election date to the first week of December for terms of office beginning in January as they become responsible for senior week. As a result of a recent plan the freshmen class has a viable way to work with throughout their first year. There is no reason why this can not be started in the spring. Freshman with terms beginning at the start of IAP, could also participate in the organization of the annual All MIT Thanksgiving. Furthermore, while class officers are not usually perceived as representing the class by themselves or their classmates the officers are viewed in this manner by the freshmen. Presently, the freshmen class has these "representatives" for only one month.

Under the current system senior class officers are elected in April of their junior year with a term expiring in April of their senior year. Activities for senior officers. This proposal to make back elections would alleviate this difficulty because the officers responsible for senior week would be able to work together starting in January. Student interest in the election might also increase because the officers they elect will be directly responsible for the organization and execution of these events, the end of the senior year festivities.

In addition, under the existing system, the effective term of the UA is significantly shortened. It becomes difficult, even by March, to initiate new programs. Thus the UA must retreat into the back seat while waiting to be deposited.

Adoption of this proposal for December elections would result in substantial benefits to undergraduates. Recently LSC and SCC altered their election schedule to coincide with the scholastic terms. Most other MIT organizations that live on that floor. It is not only unfortunate that the academic calendar of the MIT student body was adopted, but that the election date was set by the MIT Administration. Presenatlyr the present UA procedure of election is no longer in office. This produces apathy and results in the UA being forced into a lame duck position until the end of its term expiring in April of their senior year, a new set of "representatives" for the freshmen class has arrived, the class is not usually perceived as representing the class... (they) are viewed in this manner by the MIT Administration. Presently, the freshmen class has these "representatives" for only one month...

Ring committee thanked

To the Editor:

The officers of the class of 1981 would like to thank the members of the "81 ring committee for the fine job they did with this year's class ring, and for their contribution to the class treasury.

As per a suggestion made within the committee, most of the members decided to contribute the price of the rings — which were free to committee members — to the class. This producedproximately $600 in revenue. These extra funds should prove invaluable in organizing an event easily next fall, which otherwise would prove financially impossible.

-Jenny Ford Therese Pinter Laurie Christopher George Dowd Mark Fogel Lynne Redlauer

GAMIT board attack threatens everyone

To the Editor:

One or two attacks on a bulletin board can be dismissed as random mischief. The most recent defacing of the Gays at MIT display in the corridor of building I was most concerned for the community here is seriously threatened by this continued harassment. Gay people on college campuses throughout the nation have recently been the victims of vicious homophobic violence. Princeton, Amherst, and Rutgers are a few cases in point. Just last week a letter in The Tech informed us of a gay-baiting scuffle that occurred here at MIT.

What are the Administration and the Campus Police doing to protect the bulletin board and catch the vandals? Individuals in the gay community here have as much right to peace of mind and freedom from fear as do the individuals of any other campus group. The scapegoating mentality that has surfaced in the past several months must be seen as a threat to anyone who values her or his own personal freedom.

Carol Gindbloom '79
May 4, 1979

Burton One Chairman upset by photo

To the Editor:

I was completely outraged by your publication of a front-page photo of a group of students standing in the hallway of the eight-floor stop (The Tech May 1, 1979). This very young woman and the reputation of the MIT student body was then unforgivably worsened by the caption bearing the name of one of the most highly-respected living groups in MIT: that is, Burton One. As the Floor Chairman and Representative to the Burton House Executive Committee from Burton One for two years I knew the very high caliber and extremely fine personnel that live on that floor. It is indeed unfortunate that the actions of a few have gotten campus-wide recognition as the norm for the entire floor of 42 students. And the blame for this publicity rests squarely on your shoulders. Such irresponsible and sensationalist journalism cannot and will not be tolerated!

This exist and insulting harm — the erecting of a ripple on the symbol of MIT's academic excellence, the Great Dome — is not the result of Burton One, as explicitly stated in your caption, but only of a few rowdy, immature students of questionable academic standing. And, speaking for the true Burton One, I demand your personal and immediate apology for your libel to our very respected but now tarred and feathered individual, Burton One.

-Joshua A. S. Johnson jr.
May 1, 1979

P.S. 1 was requested to include the information that the "hippie hacking team", as you so crudely phrased it, was also very displeased with your caption. They inform me that, at least as a group, they have never hacked a nipple. They hack domes. They hack buildings. They do not hack the Bulletin Board.

P.S. 2 I wish to be referred to as Burton One, not Burton One Outdoor Breathing Society.

OPENING FOR MANAGER

The Student Center Committee will be accepting applications for a 24 Hour Coffeehouse Manager. The deadline for applications is July 1, 1979. For more information, contact Chris Wheeler or Mike Muchnik at x3-3916.