

Feature

Gambling course a sure bet

By Laura Farlie

Approximately 100 MIT students are learning the strategy of consistently winning at Blackjack in the IAP course entitled: "How to Get \$2,000 from a Hotel or Casino on Boardwalk."

"When the casinos decided to put in Blackjack as a sure money-maker they really goofed," attested one accomplished gambler. "With the strategy we are teaching the students are likely to beat the house consistently."

The organizers of the gambling course, Roger Demaree '81 and

James Massar '78, explain that Blackjack is unique in that it is the only casino game that can be beaten exclusive of luck. "In games such as Roulette, the chance of the ball falling on a certain number is independent of what happened the time before," they explain. "However, since Blackjack involves six full decks of cards, the chance of a card with a certain value appearing is directly dependent on how many of those cards were dealt in previous hands."

The students in the course have already memorized a sheet of paper with the computer-designed and tested winning strategy. It is basically a chart which tells one what to do with every possible card combination matched against a dealer's hand. Massar claims that while a person with no knowledge of this strategy loses, on the average, between four and ten cents on each dollar bet, a person who has mastered this strategy breaks even with the dealer.

Card-counting is the process the students are learning. Demaree estimates that through this process, by the end of this course, the students will have the ability to consistently win one to two cents per dollar bet. Massar claims that while this figure seems

(Please turn to page 3)

notes

Announcements

Under their **Women in Engineering Scholarship Program**, Corning Glass Works will award five scholarships to undergraduate women entering their senior year in Sept. 1980 who are majoring in engineering. Preference will be given to those majoring in chemical, electrical, industrial or mechanical engineering. The scholarships provide tuition and fees up to \$2000. Recipients will be required to participate in Corning Glass Works Summer Intern Program in the summer of 1980. Deadline for applications is Jan. 30, 1980. See Jeanne Richard, 3-136, x34869 for information.

* * * *

A limited number of summer research fellowships for MIT undergraduates will be awarded this spring under the **Eloranta Fellowship Program**, intended to support summer research or study projects and associated travel. Any MIT undergraduate may apply, including seniors whose summer projects would actually occur after graduation. Students must submit a written proposal outlining plans for a summer project, including an indication of how the project will contribute to his/her education objectives, how the project will be carried out, the support available, and a budget. Letters of recommendation should be included. Proposals for the summer of 1980 should be submitted before March 24, 1980, to Ms. Norma McGavern, UROP Office.

* * * *

The **Freshman Handbook Committee** would like to include new student essays in the 1980-81 handbook. Contact Peggy Richardson, 7-105, x3-6771

* * * *

The deadline for registering for the **Massachusetts primary** is Fri, Feb. 1, 1980. Massachusetts voting law allows someone registered as an independent to vote in either primary

ANY U.S. BOOK IN PRINT
 ORDERED BY TELEPHONE
 DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
 OUR 8TH YEAR WORLD WIDE SERVICE
844-8060/7 DAY-24 HOUR SERVICE
 COOPERATIVE BOOK SERVICE OF AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL
 Reading, Massachusetts 01867 U.S.A.

It's Your Vision.
 Hear the real facts about contact lenses on a recorded message.
 Call **776-1654**,
 7 p.m.-midnight, Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat., or all day on Sunday.
 No cost or obligation.

Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy

The Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie-Mellon University offers an interdisciplinary research-oriented PhD for persons with an undergraduate degree in engineering or the mathematical or physical sciences. Persons with more advanced training or experience are especially welcome. Some financial support is available.

Contact: Engineering and Public Policy,
 Carnegie-Mellon University, 30914, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Drive a National car to the slopes and you'll get up the slopes for half the price.

Van Cowen



First, National helps you get to the slopes. Just rent one of our ski specials, and you get a Chevrolet Chevette or similar sized car for only \$13.95 a day with free mileage. You just pay for gas. Then, National helps you get up the slopes. Just ask our counter agent and you'll get 1/2 priced ski lift tickets that are good at Waterville Valley, Mt. Cranmore, Sugarloaf, Loon Mt. or Blue Hills. And they're good until the end of the season. You can get up to four half priced ski lift tickets with each rental.



We feature GM cars like this Chevrolet Chevette.

Offer is available Thursday through Monday and only at these locations: 1651 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (at Holiday Inn) 661-8747, 183 Dartmouth St. (next to the Copley Plaza) 426-6830.

Rates are non-discountable. Car must be returned to renting location. We offer S&H Green Stamp Certificates on rentals in all 50 U.S. states.

\$13.95 a day no mileage charge.

National Car Rental

Maybe we're better.

STUDENT... TYPISTS & CLERKS!

If you have one or more free days during the week, then discover **TEMPORARY** work, a great way to Earn & Learn at the same time! We sometimes have part time openings too... in Boston and Cambridge... in nice cos... easy to reach on public transportation! Make good use of your free time, put extra cash in your pocket! Call or come into

Office Specialists

120 Tremont St., Boston
 367-8300 4-5 M-Sat
 18 Brattle St., Cambridge
 354-7215 12-5 M-F