Cap and gown firm target of boycott

By Steven L. Sabin

Cotrell and Leonard, the cap and gown firm for MIT and Harvard, has become the target of a nationwide boycott effort being organized by the International Ladies' Garment Worker's Union (ILGWU).

The ILGWU is citing the numerous charges of unfair labor practices brought against Cotrell and Leonard by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). According to Michael Winston of the ILGWU, the latest series of NLRB charges were filed Wednesday against the Alhyna-based firm charging the management with "various interference with the right [of its workers] to organize." Union workers have been striking the firm since August in protest of alleged unfair labor practices and unsafe working conditions.

Cotrell and Leonard currently supplies caps and gowns for MIT and Harvard commencement ceremonies through the Coop. Coop General Manager James Argeros said he felt there were "always two sides to a story" and that "if this matter is being adjudicated by the NLRB, it is not up to us to judge."

When asked if the Coop would participate in the boycott, Argeros replied, "There is nothing we are going to do at this time because there's no reason for doing anything. Our concern is supplying gowns for our MIT and Harvard people, period."

Blair Goodman, an ILGWU representative in town this week to organize the boycott, commented, "The Coop is Cotrell and Leonard's largest and most prestigious account.... That place [Cotrell and Leonard] is still a plantation." Goodman was planning meetings for today with MIT students and faculty, to gain support for the movement.

Leonard is still a plantation." -Goodman

largest organize the boycott, commented, "The Coop is Cotrell and Leonard's Our concern is supplying gowns for our MIT and Harvard people, going-to do at this time because there's no reason for doing anything. participate in the-boycott, Argeros replied, "There is nothing we are."

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By Richard Salz

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has cancelled all bilateral meetings with the Soviet Union for the next six months to protest the in-country exile of dissident Soviet physicist Andrei D. Sakharov to Gorky. This is the first time the 117-year-old organization has taken such an action.

Sakharov, a Nobel laureate, and one of the developers of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was detained as a Foreign Associate of the Academy in 1973, and is one of about 280 non-American scientists so honored. With almost 70 MIT professors as members, the NAS issued a statement calling the participation of US scientists in international meetings held in the Soviet Union a matter of "individual choice."

School of Science Dean Robert Albrecht, a member of the NAS, explained that "the academy is not trying to stop all exchanges, but encourage the individuals involved to think about it."

Albrecht continued, "I think the scientific community is highly divided. There is a group that thinks it is very wrong to break the ties we currently have with the Soviets and stop all communication, and there are others who feel the situation is so bad that we must do something symbolic-ly."

Albrecht feels that statement was not taken with unanimity, and that it is likely another statement will be issued by the full body at its annual meeting in Washington DC, next month.

Professor of Biochemistry Alexander Rich, former head of the NAS international exchange committee, feels the statement will "not have very much effect on personal interactions of MIT scientists with their Soviet counterparts. He pointed out that the statement was basically a decision to have no formal meetings for six months."

The NAS statement will result in the cancellation of four meetings previously scheduled with the Soviets. The first was a bilateral symposium of physicists scheduled for next month in Arizona on "laser-matter interactions." The other three events were planning meetings to discuss and organize programs on fundamental research, physics, and experimental psychology.

A spokesman from the NAS Washington office explained that the symposium and the research and physics planning meetings were set up under the guidelines of the US-USSR Inter-Government Science and Technology Agreement, and probably would have been cancelled by the US government had the academy not done so.

In a related development, President Carter told Congress at the end of February that most scientific and technological exchanges developed on the basis of 11 bilateral agreements signed in 1972 would be terminated.

The NAS was founded in 1863 by Congressional decree to advise Congress on scientific and technological matters when requested. Its membership is roughly 1200, and each year the academy elects about 60 members to keep that number constant.

Student skaters pose hazard; indoor skating discouraged

By Ann Hering

During the past year, roller skates and skateboards have become a popular way to get to and from classes at MIT. It is no longer unusual to see someone skate into a lecture or come in with a skateboard under his arm.

Roller skates and skateboards are similar to bicycles in some ways, however, in that they are safe only if a hand or skateboarder is used. A careless or inexperienced skateboarder may injure himself and others.

There have been several accidents on campus involving roller skaters. John Fresina, the head of the Safety Office, said that these accidents occurred at night, when students were racing on the skating rink underneath buildings 56, 16 and 66. Exspensive lab equipment was lost, but no one was hurt.

According to Fresina, students have been racing on skates and skateboards down the infinite corridor at night. The students seem to think that this is a harmless way of having fun. But Fresina worries that, "They're doing too fast; someone may get hurt, especially if a handicapped person or someone on crutches could not get out of the Skater's way in time. There are many people working in offices or labs, even during the evening, who might walk out in the middle of a roller skating race."

Twenty-five years ago, when all of the clocks in the main buildings had to be set by hand, a man on

A former Editor-inchief reminisces about his undergraduates years in student activities. Page 4.

A Small Circle of Friends is like the food at Walker: Interesting to watch, but not necessarily worth paying to see. Page 9.


A second place finish in the intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships sets the stage for the fencing team's attempt to take the NCAAA Championship this weekend. Page 11.

Chocolate City won the A league basketball championship last week. Page 12.

Students discuss strategies at Wednesday's Students Against Registration and the Draft (SARD) meeting. (Photo by Jim Oker)