Editorial

The UAP Options

The agitated normally surrounding UAP elections is particularly disturbing this year. Paul Gray will take over the presidency in three months and it is vital the new UAP be respected and listened to by the new administration. Students must be properly represented as Gray sets his priorities and initial programs.

The new Student General Assembly and a revival of interest in the workings of student government. The next UAP must be able to avert what seems to be the approaching realignment of students.

Consequently, we must look very carefully at the candidates this year. More than ever, the UAP needs to have a balanced mix of the following qualities:

1. **Personality:** We will find no candidates supporting a 17 percent tuition hike this year. Nor will we find a candidate with a solution to the tuition problem. More important than the candidates' rhetoric is the ability of the next UAP to deal effectively with the administration and the GA. The GA must be able to work well with people.

2. **Leadership:** If the GA is not soon given a firm sense of direction, it will again cease to be a viable organization.

3. **Opensus:** The UAP must be able to create an atmosphere which will encourage students to get involved in government. The UAP/UAVP team must be representative of the students.

4. **Experience:** The UAP cannot be effective if or he she is a stranger to MIT's leaders and issues.

5. **Energy:**

6. **Commitment:** The winner of tomorrow's election will need to handle a large number of diverse, difficult problems over two full terms. The job calls for devotion.

7. **DiversitY:** The UAP/UAVP team must be representative of the student body.

Given the current political situation, we must evaluate this year's candidates bearing these criteria in mind. Most candidates demonstrated little leadership ability beyond railing an anti-commons crowd. He presents little substance for the GA to work with and presents the administration with an easy target. Gray's choice of candidates will set any experience he may have to the job. His simplistic "students' rights" platform demonstrates a lack of understanding of the complex issues facing the Institute. The next UAP must be able to deal as effectively with the administration as against it. We also question the representativeness of a UAP and UAVP who live four doors apart in the same dorm.

Incumbent Jon Hakala has demonstrated a serious inability to deal with people on a working basis. Although effective in revitalizing the GA at the beginning of his term, he has been unable to carry that past its infancy. His record leaves much to be desired. Having neglected the lack of influence over administration actions such as mandatory commitment, the campaign reveals an unhealthy working relationship with Institute officials. Hakala may have had more experience than any of his opponents but he has repeatedly shown he does not learn from that experience. There seems little more he can do with another year as UAP.

Jenny Ford brings to the race a welcome desire to open the UAP to new faces. Although she records a class officer, however, demonstrates limited success in involving large numbers of new-comers. Ford's experience with administration leaders is minimal and her depth of understanding of campus-wide issues is questionable. Her resignation from last year's ring committee also leaves us in doubt about her ability to withstand the pressures of being UAP.

Chuck Markham has demonstrated an ability to deal with students and administrators alike this past year as UAVP. He is skilled at organization and his enthusiasm for student government has been checked only by an occasional tendency to take too much on at once. Although two years is a lengthy stretch for anyone to try to maintain the energy, Markham's perseverance as a variety of both student and faculty committees throughout his three years here is a clear measure of his devotion.

We therefore endorse the candidacy of Chuck Markham for Undergraduate Association President.

**Stephanie Pollack**

The undesigned tango

It's that time of year again — Open House notices abound, and freshmen open their mailbox one by one to find little white cards. Yes, folks, it's your turn to decorate a campus.

I'm one of the privileged few. I'm getting all of those existing departmental notices for the second year in a row. Why, I bet I know more about

" conflicting biology curriculum than most of the people in Andit's office concocting legerdemain in the morning, knowing that there'll be more than just dead fish in your mailbox.

Security is not, however, the only reason to become an undersigned sophomore (which is, of course, what I mean by claiming to be one of the privileged few). There are lots of free munchies at the Open Houses. There's also the conversation of not having to fill out your course designation card if you have to put an all-righties on or father than 10 before it is due.

Then, of course, there are the legitimate reasons. I come to MIT planning to be a nuclear engineer. Three Mile Island and 80/1 quickly changed my mind (80/1 helped also). The problem was that the desired not to major in one replacement was not replaced by an insaturation as to what course I should declare. On top of all else, I wanted to double-major in political science, a year which did not thrill my parents (who pay much of my tuition bill). The solution was easy — I chose to hold off on declaring a major.

Kolb's description: an oil agree-

" ment was taking steps towards a stable system, plans for the trillion dollar for both hardware and personnel would indicate a military intervention or eventual destruction of the Shah, with conse-

quence that "brought to an end the Vietnam war." States that "Carter's request of the CIA-bucked coup that em- phasized the Shah, with conse-

quences that are worldwide.

Kolb's other bit of evidence is no less spectacular. I own Smith's entire article, perfectly accurately, as reporting the mood in Washington after the taking of hostages in Iran, and then reviewed, again accurately, the move that were being made in the administration. Using various other sources, Smith described the event as marking the close of the post- Vietnam era: "the end of the Vietnam syndrome," giving rise to a "feeling that we have a right to print against American interes-


t in friendly countries if Western oil interests are threatened" and so resort to "military action if our interests were threatened." As I observed, in this atmosphere, the government was taking steps towards a "Cold War," with further expansion of the military budget, renewed inquisitiveness for the military doctrine, and more than a few signals that the Administration has men-

tioned since January 1978 and states that "Carter's request of the CIA-bucked coup that em- phasized the Shah, with conse-

quences that are worldwide."

So, I was assigned an undersigned sophomore advisor (from the pol sci department, although I had my choice of any course), and signed up for what I wanted to take.

I had been told that there was no stigma attached to being undersigned, and was pleasantly surprised. Quite the opposite. The following is the Of-

fice of Freshmen Advising (which is now the Undergraduate Academic Support Office, and used to be the Freshman Advisory Council) were quite dismissive about finding a advisor. I have never been asked about taking classes or anything else.

The only real difficulty has been trying to fit the word "undersigned" in the little spaces next to the student forms list for writing your major. This could be easily solved by giving undersigned a course number — perhaps zero would be ap-

propriate.

It is not true that being an undersigned sophomore is a contagious disease. Just because you choose a course which does not arrive before the 8:00,000 hour, students should believe that after that time is goes.

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Feedback

Chomsky defends Lecture

To the Editor:

To The March (March 18), Roger Kolb claims that a talk I gave at the March 4 Coalition was "indicatively false, both philosophically and factually." To demonstrate factual falsehood, he cites two examples: my reference to an article of Hockrid's Smith in the N Y Times (12 Dec. 1979) and a reference in response to a question from the floor (a Tennessean 6 August 1979, which Kolb claims I quoted "out of context." I quoted it, ex-

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