Harvard declines commercial role  
By Richard Sals

"Our friends up the river made the right decision," commented MIT Biology Professor David Baltimore, speaking at an LSC-sponsored lecture on Tuesday, was commenting on the announcement by Harvard President Derek Bok that the university would not participate in the formation of a firm to exploit recombinant DNA technology.

"It is clear that the kind of proposal considered by Harvard has all sorts of difficulties and problems with conflict of interest," commented Harvard Law, Provost. "I understand the university's position not to get involved commercially, inter- elatively relies on the pressure to consider and resolve many possi-

blems, according to Low.

"I do not think that this was a necessary move on its part," said Bok's statement explained that Harvard has decided to take a commercial role in the potentially lucrative field, because "the preservation of academic values is a matter of paramount importance to the university and owning shares in such a company would create a number of potential conflicts with those values."

Baltimore amplified on this, saying, "We can't allow ourselves to be open to the charge that we are abandoning our basic academic principles."

"While Harvard will not get involved in a commercial venture "at this time," Bok's statement leaves the possibility of other ventures if means of preserving "traditional academic values" can be found.

Harvard was to have one of the founders of and would main- tain a financial interest in the firm. The company would use biological patents held by the university to compete with other firms in the area of commercial "gene-splicing."

Frosh dislike commons

By Sarah Bofman

"It's a rip-off," said one East Campus freshman about the newly initiated forced commons dining plan. A similar attitude seems to prevail among all freshmen on campus.

"I think it stinks," remarked Keith Glassman, a freshman from MacGregor, required to be on the 410 point plan. "It's unfair, those 410 point plans don't normally coincides with dining hall hours. Because of his schedule and the high cost of the point plans, he often eats at Lobdell.

Glassman also commented that while the food is "not all that bad," commons should "just not be forced. If the dining halls are doing well, they should close," he said.

"They could still support a solid dine-in room without forcing com- mons," said Mark Polak, a frosh from Harvard who explained that Walker is currently crowded, without the appellation of Commons.

"I'd be on it anyway." On the food quality, Polak commented, "I don't think that's its good, just I don't like cafeteria food as a general rule."

Gary Oberbrunner of Beasley Hall, who chose to be on the 360 point plan his first year, said he saw light improvement on the menu. "I still prefer the walk-in lunch menu.

"It's definitely wrong," said Oberbrunner. "Just because other schools do it [mandated eating com- mons] is no reason for MIT to do so." He commented that while one-half of Beasley and freshmen begin on commons, more and more cook as time goes on. Oberbrunner, who usually eats at Twenty Chimneys, said he

New disposal rules will not be costly

By Andrew Robbins

On November 19, enforcement of recent federal environmental legislation began, outlining a new hazardous waste disposal process. The "cradle-to-grave" control system outlined in Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 1976, bring- ings intensification identification and tracking procedures into effect. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will now regulate anyone generating, transporting, storing, or disposing of more than 1000 kilograms of hazardous waste in any thirty day period. The Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Management Act, passed in 1979, placed similar restrictions on hazardous waste handling, regardless of the quantities involved. State and federal agencies are now working to coord- inate their environmental policies. Most Massachusetts generates products less than the 1000 kilogram per month limit, according to AID Nadrone of the Division of Hazardous Wastes, and are regulated by the Depart- ment of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE).

The Safety Office handling MIT's hazardous waste, the bulk of which is produced by the chemistry, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering laboratories. John M. Thompson, Director of the Safety Office, noted that MIT generates about 25,000 pounds (pounds weight) of hazardous waste each year. Each barrel of waste contains many smaller containers, each carefully packaged. Only one type of waste may be in one barrel.

Fresina connected that he does not expect the new laws to result in significant disposal cost increases. "Compliance will be

European views nuclear arms

By Alden D'Honneur

An end to the armaments leapfrogging and the eventual est- ablishment of a nuclear-free Europe were called for: by the British historian E.P. Thompson, speaking at MIT Wednesday evening at a Science, Technology, and Society colloquium.

Speaking earlier in the day at MIT's Center for International Studies, Dr. Leslie Gelb, a former State Department official extensively involved in negotiating the first Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT I), proposed a new approach for future negotiations.

Long-term, but to ten years, great because increase the striking range of the NATO forces, according to Thompson.

The United States is to con- sider the European perspective on arms, Thompson said. In his view this disregard is exemplified by the absence of any European representative at the US-Soviet talks on European disarmament now in progress at Geneva. In the concept of a limited theater war, Thompson asserted, is a ploy to spare the US the consequences of a nuclear exchange.

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