Program team to compete in Nationals

By Lawrence Cini

A computer programming team from MIT is flying to St. Louis today for the national contest sponsored by the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). The contest, held in conjunction with the ACM Computer Science Conference, is probably the largest of its kind in the nation. It will match twenty teams that have won either first or second place at the regional contests held since last November.

The MIT team consists of two graduate computer science students, Dan Helman and Steve Haxlerig, two seniors in computer science, Chris Gunning and Roger Goun, who won places on the team by their performance at the MIT contest held last November. The team of Helman and Haxlerig won first place and Gunning and Goun second place, out of the ten teams which entered the contest.

The MIT team qualified for the national contest by winning the northeast regional competition held at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut on November 15. MIT, whose team is Helman, finished the problems in the final round in sixty-seven minutes while the University of Vermont won second place with a seventy-two minute limit.

The national contest is five years old and MIT won the contest in its first and second years, but last year they finished third at the regional level and thus did not qualify for the national contest. Asked why they performed poorly last year, Haxlerig, who was on that team with Helman, cited "overconfidence." This year, the team has been working on sample problems up to ten hours each week for the last month, commented Haxlerig. At the national, they will have to submit programming solutions in Fortran for five given problems. This will probably take each team at least six or seven hours.

"I think we have a good chance," commented Goun. There are certainly going to be a lot of good teams." The contest is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. and will probably be over by midnight.

Coop unionization generates dispute

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"The unionizing is the most effective way to stop the campus administration from using its power to pressure the Coop to distribute handbills," said Students for the Coop's.iccted to produce 11 company handbills. We feel that the administration is not doing enough to protect student rights," said McLaughlin of the UFCW.

"We are talking about legal procedures for getting the handbills out," said Haxlerig. "We are not talking about distributing handbills in an illegal way. We are talking about a legal way to get the handbills out." The Coop is washing their hands of the unionization issue.

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