Markham rates GA, UAP, Gray

By Jerri-Lynn Scofield

Outgoing Undergraduate Association President (UAP) Chuck Markham '81 characterized his feelings on the performance of student government during the last year as being "decidedly mixed."

"We tried everything," Markham commented, "but didn't follow everything through." He attributed it to his ability to complete all projects to a lack of "manpower," and "burn out" among those persons who did work for the UAP.

Markham graded the performance of all the organizations he had to deal with. He gave standing student committees an A: "They don't get an A because they write better." In fact, in general, Markham was pleased with the performance of the standing committees and the other standing committees.

Markham explained why the standing committees battled, describing them as "very autonomous," and even "parochial" at times. On occasion Markham had told individual committees that they couldn't see the forest from your particular pine tree. Markham also noted that committees "sometimes would react negatively to outside guidance." from the UAP or the General Assembly (GA).

"The UAP's leadership role with the Committees should be strengthened," and be clearly defined. While in the past the committees had adopted an attitude that the UAP should maintain a "hands-off" stance, Markham believes the UAP should "support" the standing committees. As UAP, he didn't want to interfere with what the committees were doing, he "wanted to help." Markham added, "In particular, the UAP should be held responsible and accountable when committees do not fulfill their responsibilities." Summarizing, he said, "Committees should not be iso." Of course, the GA should not be so interventionist. Markham gave the GA an "B-" he termed it. It was good. Markham met with the decision-makers at MIT. They were making a difference. Markham elaborated that the GA had met with the Corporation Executive Committee, the faculty committee on Educational Policy, the Committee on Student Affairs, and President Paul Gray '54 during the past year.

Markham thought that the GA had been instrumental in effecting the change in next year's academic calendar. "The thing was so complicated, you just couldn't explain it to the whole student body.

Although the performance of the whole GA was very good, the level of commitment of the individual GA member is not very good," said Markham. He suggested the size of the GA to 30 or 40 people, down from the present level of 80. "loosely committed people who don't take their role too seriously, he said.

Markham gave the UAP 1's and 2's, but "they definitely offered good services." He cited the times in '80 when "in 11681-1580

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CityWatch

Genetic engineering firm plans city site

By Barry S. Suman

Pace Inc., the genetic engineering firm which abandoned plans to locate in Somerville early last month, has proposed making the old Boston Lyngby Hospital in Roxbury its temporary location, according to the Boston Globe.

Part of the hospital building is still being used for patient care while new facilities are under construction, but Pace plans to rent only 15,000 of the 300,000 square feet available. Herbert Gleason, a lawyer for the company, said Pace would rent the space for eighteen months at a cost of approximately $400,000.

According to spokesmen for the Brigham and Women's Hospital, owners of the old hospital, community organizations have been informed of the negotiations with PACE. Mitchell Hilton, president of the Mission Hill Planning Commission said, "It's too serious an issue for the hospital to make a snap decision. It's a sensitive issue and should not be taken lightly."

Pace is a subsidiary of Genetics Institute Inc. The parent company was formed last year by a team including Mark Prashine, chairman of the Department of Molecular Biology at Harvard University, after Harvard refused to become an active partner in commercial applications of genetic technology. Research on production of human interferon and insulin is among projected uses of the facility.

At the request of the Commission, an informational meeting will be held for members of the surrounding community to discuss genetic engineering and its implications. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, at 7pm in the Mission Church Grammar School Auditorium.

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