No change in grad date

By Tom Lorde

Tuesday night, the Commencement Committee was just giving its "informal opinion" to the CEP and Faculty Chairman Professor Felix Villars was present at the committee meeting "in the capacity of an invited guest." He would make no comment on the state of the controversy. Secretary of the Faculty Professor Jack Ruina did note that the issue was on the agenda for the faculty meeting to be held Wednesday, September 25th, despite the recommendation of the Commencement Committee.

Tuesday night's committee meeting was held specifically to address the conflict between the May 28 commencement date and the start of the Jewish festival of Shavuot on the same day. The four-hour meeting began with discussion from the committee and a group of Jewish students and a Rabbi. The meeting concluded after the committee deliberated by itself on the issue. Though Keys felt the meeting contained "thoughtful and thought-provoking conversation," he remarked that at the meeting's conclusion, "there was not an overwhelming sentiment to change position." Keys observed that the vote against a change of position was "by no means unanimous."

Even though the committee's recommendation not to open the issue was not heeded by the CEP, Keys indicated that "it was important to have Villars there." Keys said that the meeting was very helpful as a source of information for Villars, who can now return to the CEP with a broader understanding of the issue.

Andrew S. Goldberg '82, one of the students present at the meeting, said, "I am very unhappy with the committee's decision though I feel they displayed sensitiveness." He felt that "the Institute is insensitive" to the needs of Jewish students. When informed of the presence of the issue on the faculty agenda, he remarked that "it is important that the issue come to the attention of the faculty."

McBay heeds VisComm forum

By Stephanie Pollack

The MIT Corporation Visiting Committee on Student Affairs has not yet distributed its draft report from last May's meeting to committee members, but the visit has already had a tangible effect on Dean's Office activities.

Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay has written to officers of Institute houses and independent living groups to invite a series of Thursday evening meetings between students and Institute officials. McBay said that the idea for the meetings was the direct result of "a valid criticism made during the student forum that I am not as visible as I should be."

McBay has also written to members of the Academic Council to suggest that they participate in meetings, to be held in the Student Center, concerning Council decision-making, the impact of interest to students, such as the setting of tuition. "At least this way there will be some dialogue," McBay noted.

Community chairman D. Reid Weedon, Jr. '41 said that he has (please turn to page 3)

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