Homecoming Queen passes by 2-1 margin

900 students cast ballots

By Stephanie Pollack

Approximately 900 MIT stu-
dents voted on the Undergraduate Social Committee's plans to elect a Homecoming Queen, endorsing Undergraduate Association Chairman Joan Purdy '82.

"The two-to-one majority is a reasonable number to go with," Olivo noted. The Social Commi-
tee was "pleased with the turn-
out," according to Olivo, who believed those voting were "fair and representative sampling of students at MIT."

Several students have com-
plained that the students from Burton Third who were manning the voting booths discouraged stu-
dents from voting against the con-
test. One woman reported that the students had opened her bal-
lot. A Burton Third resident was seen telling a student to vote for a candidate but not to bother answering the question.

Students voting affirmatively on the question of whether the contest should be held selected seven candidates for Homecoming Queen out of the field of twenty-two, five men, and the Ugliest Man on Campus (UMOC). The seven finalists are: Betty Bote '84, Irene Cheng '84, Pam Ganann '84, Linda Johnson '83, Terry Sutton '83, Laura Szynter '84 and UMOC, ac-
cording to Olivo.

While acknowledging the ex-
tistence of continuing opposition to the contest, Olivo noted that "there are people who are op-
posed to everything that goes on at MIT."

The ranking of the seven finalists has not been released because it would prejudice the final voting, according to Olivo. He noted that "none of the men had a remotely serious number of votes." Students who voted for a woman but did not answer the referendum question were counted as affirmative votes, while all others not responding were counted as negative votes, Olivo said.

The Homecoming Queen will be elected in preferential balloting in which students will designate their top three choices, Olivo said.

Voting will take place at the Drink-Off Thursday night, and at the Lobby 10 Homecoming booth Friday and possibly Thursday. The winner will be announced at the semi-formal dance on Friday night.

Each finalist will be contacted to assure that she wishes to con-
tinue participating in the contest; if any withdraw, the eighth place candidate will become a finalist, according to Olivo. Finalists will (Please turn to page 1).

Underwear thefts plague dorms

By By Laura Farle

Approximately twenty thefts of women's undergarments from McCormick Hall's laundry room have occurred since Wednesday, October 7, reported McCormick Judicial Committee (JudCom) Chairman Joan Purdy '82.

Clothing has also recently been stolen from the laundry rooms of East Campus, Eastgate, and Westgate dormitories, according to Campus Police Sergeant Anne Glavin. There has been one theft of women's undergarments in both Burton House and Senior House dormitories.

"The problem is more serious in McCormick, where [women are] missing selected pieces of un-
derwear," said Glavin. Purdy reported that "bras, panties, leotards, and bathing suits" are being stolen from washers and dryers.

The laundry thefts at East Campus, Eastgate, and Westgate are "suspicious characters and ac-
vities worthy of investigation," Purdy added. "Most of them are coming from the dorms."

Last week two freshman women had all their underwear stolen from the sixth Burton House drier, according to floor chairman Sandy Currier '83.

"We have no leads as to what type of person is doing the thefts," said Campus Police Lieute-
nant Joseph McElroy. Glavin added, "It could be somebody with a psychiatric problem, a fraternitv prank, juveniles from the city . . . at this point we don't know who it is."

McElroy said that the thefts are under investiga-
tion.

Purdy mentioned that the sign to McCormick Hall was stolen about the same time as the un-
derwear thefts. "Everybody is waiting to see whether the sign and the underwear will show up as a huck, either in Homecoming or Halloween," she said.

The monetary value of the Mc-

Campus crime increases in US

By Gwong Cheng

While MIT's crime rate has not increased substantially over the past five years, according to MIT Campus Police Chief James Oliveri, universities and colleges across the nation are tightening security to combat increasing crime.

A nationwide study by the FBI found similar crime problems at many college cam-
puses. 107 universities and colleges reported 55,439 personal and property crimes in 1980, up from 54,217 in 1975.

The most dramatic change is a 55 percent increase in the number of sexual attacks on women. Part of the increase is due to a higher percentage of rapes reported to the police. In addition, the actual number of rapes has increased, according to campus security officials. The major cause of the increase, according to these officials, is carelessness. They ad-
vise students not to walk alone at night, to avoid secluded areas, to lock dormitory rooms and win-
dows at bedtime, and to report suspicious characters and ac-
vities to the police.

There has been one reported rape on the MIT campus from 1975 to 1980, according to Oliveri. Armed and unarm-
ed robberies decreased from 10 to 6 over the same time period. There was a decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts from 392 in 1975 to 37 in 1980. The value of property stolen from dormitories increased from $16,260 to $23,350.

Oliveri also noted that the crime rate is substantially lower than that of either Cambridge or Boston. The presence of foot patrols and an em-
court service are major factors in the reduction of crime at MIT. Oliveri said, "We place emphasis on high-visibility patrol. It is the main emphasis in our fight against crime. When something happens, the officers are always there and know what we actions to take."

They advised students to take advantage of the escort service at night or in the early morning. "We provide the service to prevent crime, not as a reaction to past events. MIT has been providing the service for a (Please turn to page 7).

Red Cross declares nat'l blood shortage

By Stuart Gitlow

The American Red Cross has declared a national blood emergency. Said Marilyn Yarruck of the Red Cross, "Unlike anything I've ever seen, it's a national shortage, not just a New England shortage. With 37 Red Cross centers throughout the country, no one can help us out. It's most unusual."

The MIT/Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for October 28 through November 6. Cindy Pribble '83, Chairman of the Drive, said, "We've had a goal of 900 units of blood. We'd like to do better than that.

The Northeast division of the Red Cross is especially hard hit. They've asked us today to meet and surpass our goal for this drive. The only way we can do this is with the support of the entire MIT com-

When asked for a possible cause of the blood emergency, Yarruck explained, "Through therapy, cancer and leukemia patients are living longer and using more blood. Our former donors are now receiving blood. We have to educate our younger people again to get out there and donate five times a year."

Pribble said that the results of the last blood drive were fair, with 1,500 units of blood received; however, the blood drive before that received nearly 1,800 units of blood, close to the current goal.

The blood drive will be held in the Sala of the Student Center except on October 30, when it will be moved to the fourth floor as a result of the visit of Vice-President George H. Bush. "We hope that having to move out of the Sala for Vice-President Bush doesn't hurt the drive," added Yarruck.