Science, technology, society interrelated

(Continued from page 2) there was not a complete division between scientists and society, but rather a community of scientists, businessmen, lawyers, and others. He also noted that the separation in understanding is perhaps caused by the loss of faith in science to another generation.

The second discussant, Lewis H. Spence of the Boston Housing Authority, presented contrasting views of technology as degrading the aesthetic, moral, and political lives of the poor in America, and the nature of scientific knowledge and related these ideas to the real world. Kuhn, Professor of Philosophy and History of Science, discussed several different theories as to how knowledge can be formed to form a paradigm and contended that English is not a good language to describe the world, and that a new means of communication would be needed.

Speaking from an economist’s point of view, Stanford University Professor of Public Policy Nathan Rosenberg spoke on the importance of economics on scientific research. Rosenberg stressed the impact of monetary incentives on current research today and contrasted research with the distant past (the 17th and 19th centuries). He then went on to describe how major discoveries more frequently come from either “lucky successes” or from research in a field which had just had a major non-theoretical breakthrough in a related area, discovering the discovery of the transistor effect as an example.

Those two talks were followed by discussions by Victor F. Weis-Fogh, Institute Professor Emeritus of Physics, and Charles F. Sahel, Assistant Professor of Social Science.

FinBoard to change

(Continued from page 1) sembly. The GA, however, has not exercised overt influence in Fin-Board’s policies. Last year the GA did call for an increase in activity funding from the Ad-

ministration.

Concluded, “The GA isn’t very effective in any area, but when an issue comes before them, they listen very carefully and are willing to accept and sup-
port the new technology.”

The afternoon session of the symposium was chaired by Carl Kenny, Director of the MIT Program in STS. Although the session’s topic was officially un-
titled, all talks centered on the theme of the relevance of scientific knowledge to the “common man.”

Advocating a new language for scientific expression, Professor S. Kuhn spoke on the nature of scientific knowledge and related these ideas to the real world. Kuhn, Professor of Philosophy and History of Science, discussed several different theories as to how knowledge can be formed to form a paradigm and contended that English is not a good language to describe the world, and that a new means of communication would be needed.

Speaking from an economist’s point of view, Stanford University Professor of Public Policy Nathan Rosenberg spoke on the importance of economics on scientific research. Rosenberg stressed the impact of monetary incentives on current research today and contrasted research with the distant past (the 17th and 19th centuries). He then went on to describe how major discoveries more frequently come from either “lucky successes” or from research in a field which had just had a major non-theoretical breakthrough in a related area, discovering the discovery of the transistor effect as an example.

Those two talks were followed by discussions by Victor F. Weis-Fogh, Institute Professor Emeritus of Physics, and Charles F. Sahel, Assistant Professor of Social Science.

“...When I have gone in front of the Board [representing an activity], I have felt like I’ve faced an inquisition,” Welles admitted. Fin-Board should be more “advocate for student groups,” not “a hurdle to face,” said Austin.

The two sides of the dispute have greatly differing viewpoints: Fin-Board sees itself as a judicial, unbiased body; its arguments believe it is political and should become a representative Board. The active reexamination of Fin-Board’s role should end in specific changes in the Board’s structure.

Welles has proposed specific reforms for the Board, two of which are embodied in the tabled GA motion. The election of Sam Austin as ASA President and Arnold Keesee to the Board argue further pressure for change. Such reforms, in order to be made, will have to wind their way through the General As-

sembley.

FRESHMEN

- ESG

an individualized academic program for first year students at MIT, has open-
ings for the spring term. If you are in-
terested in taking your core subjects through tutorials and small seminars or in developing your own study projects, call x3-7786 or stop by 24-612 for more information.

Invest your graduate degree wisely

You’re looking for a high return on your education and work experience. We’re looking for high performance on our people investments.

People who are analytical, decisive, people-sensitive, persuasive & ambitious. People who’ll move quickly to our middle & senior management positions.

Could be we should be talking to each other when we visit your campus in the next few weeks.

Contact your Campus Placement Officer for further information.