Feature

No recession for MIT grads

By Richard Salz

Despite predictions of double-digit unemployment for the coming months, MIT students and corporate representatives are still lining up to meet in the Career Planning and Placement Office to discuss career possibilities, company offers, and starting salaries.

"The fall recruiting season went quite well," commented Phyllis Jackson, Associate Director of the Placement Office. Jackson was unable to give any exact figures, but said, "It's the feeling of the whole office that we're having more students come by."

This impression coincides with the results of two recent surveys which indicate more job opportunities for MIT students.

Center couples arts with media tech.

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The new building primarily for Arts and Media Technology is not meant to fulfill all the artistic needs of the MIT community, said Peter M. Spackman, Executive Director for the Center for Arts and Media. Spackman commented on the wide range of "artistic programs at MIT which are very much alive," but noted that the new facility would not be an all-embracing arts center.

The new building primarily provides for a coupling of artistic activity: visual arts facilities, housed in the Architecture department, combined with advanced communications technologies, housed interdisciplinarily, in the Media Technology Department.

There will also be a media room, digital image processing laboratories, listening galleries, and an experimental media theater. Spackman noted that while the experimental media theater will not directly serve the drama organizations on campus, it will relieve the pressure on the Kresge Little Theatre.

Community response for the new center has varied, according to Porter, from enthusiasm and understanding to doubt at the advisability of entering the new field of media technology until MIT has financially stabilized its existing programs.

A number of companies also agreed with the optimistic projections. Bill Poveromo of IBM said his company continued to consider MIT students for more positions last fall than ever before. IBM included one of the biggest interviewers on campus, noted Jackson, with about 35 interviews a year.

Jackson commented on the prospects for MIT students: "It's hard to predict the number of openings a company has. At times I'm not sure if they know."

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