By Tony Zamparutti
Chairman of the Faculty Felix M. H. Villars and other members of the faculty Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) discussed the CEP proposal to alter freshman pass/fail with about fifteen students at a Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCCE) forum.

The CEP last month recommended a formalized system of hidden grades for all freshmen in the spring term, along with new evaluation forms for the end of fall term. The fall term forms would use a new "check-box" system to evaluate freshman performance.

Under the check-box system, instructors would rate student performance on tests and papers, homework, class participation, overall understanding of the subject, and quality of writing as exceptionally good, good, adequate, not adequate, or not known.

The faculty will discuss the proposal, which would take effect immediately upon faculty approval, at its meeting Wednesday.

Villars acknowledged changes that the CEP plan proposes on a formal, administrative solution for the complex problems of the advising system.

A major problem in the present system is the low percentage of freshmen and instructors who complete freshman evaluation forms at the end of spring term, said Peggy Richardson, Executive Officer of the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO).

The CEP proposal would institute a hidden grade system at the end of spring term to ensure evaluation of freshman performance. The hidden grades would merely be a new vehicle of evaluation, Villars said at the forum.

Villars said the decision not to use the check-box system in the spring because it would be impractical. "It's a matter of information processing, maybe in a few years" it will be possible, he said.

"What counts for me," said Villars, "is not ... the conden- sa of student performance into a single letter grade," but a compre- hensive system of spring term evaluations.

Evaluating all freshman at the end of spring term with a faculy-initiated check-box system would be cumbersome and costly, noted Professor Arthur C. Smith. "I just don't think it's worth it."

"In what way could I convince you," one student asked Smith, "to use a check-box rather than a grade system?" "What if 100 percent of the student body wanted it?" "No," replied Smith. "I just don't think it's productive — and the student body vote with their feet and their opinion."

"In my own experience, a significant fraction of what's called for in written evaluations is not useful and is not perceived as useful by my colleagues in the [Physics] Department," French said.

"I take exception with most of what's been said," Joseph Romas '82 told the faculty members. "A latter grade of C, in one person's course could be a B in someone else's course and a D in someone else's class."

Both the Undergraduate Asso- ciation (ASA) and the Student Court (SCCE) oppose the CEP plan for hidden grades at the end of spring term.

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ASA: No space allocating plan

By Lea Hauritz
Deputy director of office space for student organizations, MIT remains without an organized method of allocating the offices to groups in need of it. "We have a hectic system for assigning student office space," said Stephen D. Immel, "a little bit of Residence and Campus Activities in the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA).

"ASA [the Association of Stu- dent Activities] officially has au- thority over student activity office space," said Stuart Allow '83, member of the ASA execu- tive committee. "The ASA execu- tive committee allocates the space in the Student Center."

"There is no set procedure" for allocating that space. Allow ad- ded that his office has a line about thirty activities that need space.

ASA planned to formalize of- fice space allocation procedures this year, according to Allow, but other attention to other issues has prevented the group from doing it.

Many student activities have offices in the Student Center and Walker Memorial. Groups are also scattered about other institu- tional buildings.

"ASA has authority to distribute the activities space in the Student Center, it is less clear who distributes the space for groups in Walker College," said the senator on the first and second floors of Walker "has nev- er been subject to ASA ... [It is]"

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Main Street muggers assault three freshmen in one week

By Thomas Huang
In just one week, three MIT freshmen were robbed on the same street short of Main Street, according to Campus Po- liceman Sergeant Anne P. Glavin of the Special Services Division for Campus Security.

The robberies occurred at the edge of the MIT campus, near the corner of Main and Windsor Streets.

"This area has always been a problem," the Campus Police dis- courages students from walking there since it is beyond the pe- remeter of the campus," said Glav- in.

On September 26 at 8:35pm, an MIT freshman was walking west on Main Street when a man grabbed him from behind and forced him to the basement of a building in the Newtonville Court low-income housing development nearby, according to the Campus Police report.

The assailant held a "shiny ob- ject" in his hand and took $40 in cash, credit cards, a watch, iden- tification, and a driver's license from the freshman. The student was told to count to 50 before leaving the basement, and not to contact the police, the report stated.

The assailant wore dark clothing and was described by the student as a 20 to 30 year old black man, about 6'2" tall, with a medium-length hairstyle.

Six days later, two freshmen were walking on the north side of Main Street, near the hous- ing projects, toward Central Square at 10:00pm, when they were accosted by two men. One was leaning against a parked van, the other was a fence, accord-