I'll miss the kids," says Gibson

By Barry S. Surman

Ten years of watching student activities and politics might get
to some people, but Margaret Gibson "loved almost every min-
ute of it."

Gibson, accountant for the Undergraduate Association for
the last ten years, will retire De-
cember 31, after thirty years at
the Institute.

"As far as leaving the Institute,
I'm very happy," Gibson said.
"... work is just getting in the
way of things I want to do." "I'll miss the kids," the added.

Gibson came to MIT in April
1952, as accountant for the Fac-
culty Club. After twenty years of
"never meeting an undergraduate
student," Gibson moved to the
fourth floor of the Student Cen-
ter in 1972.

Ten years ago, Gibson said,
MIT students had more time to
do "something because it would
help others."

"The kids today don't have
time to be the idealists they really
are," Gibson said. "Most MIT
students are idealists, but they're
timid about it."

Students, she said, have "time
to talk to one another, but need
to talk to someone else, too." Gibson does not think the Office
of the Dean for Student Affairs
fills that role. "I don't think they
have time, they have too many
meetings," she said.

"I don't think the administra-
tion understands" the importance of the relationship between stu-
dents and Institute support staff,
Gibson said. "Those are the
things which are going to be lost" as staff positions are eliminated
as part of MIT's budget-cutting
plans.

While student government
leaders were debating the necessi-
ty of employing a full-time ac-
countant last year, Gibson said,
"at no time did I lose faith that
the students would straighten it
out."

Gibson thinks the MIT admin-
istration, though, has recently be-
gun treating students "less like
men and women and more like
boys and girls."

"Requiring students to "take
one or two humanities courses is
not the answer to making well-
rounded people," Gibson con-
tends. "The making of a whole
person is a longer process."

Too many students are forced
by economics to rush through
MIT, Gibson said. "We're hurry-
ing up too fast."

"I'll miss the kids," Gibson re-
peated. "They need to be loved a
little bit."

Margaret Gibson, UA account-
ant for 10 years, will leave in Decem-
ber.