MIT provides for the handicapped

By Andrea Marra

MIT "tends to make a fair amount of effort for its handicapped students," Gregory Kochanski '82 reported. The main buildings of the Institute are fairly accessible, Kochanski noted, but improvements, such as the wheelchair lift in Building 1, are difficult to install because the buildings are so old.

There are ten handicapped students at the Institute this year, according to John Rutledge, Assistant Operations Manager for Housing. Daniel Sonnenfeld '85, who is hard of hearing, said he is impressed "MIT is very open to handicapped students." He said MIT is "one of the best universities in that aspect."

The summer before his freshman year, the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (OSDA) contacted Sonnenfeld to ensure his dormitory room would have apparatus he needed. MIT installed a strobe light to signal if someone is at the door, a light-up fire alarm, and a special telephone with an amplifier in Sonnenfeld's room in Senior House.

Sonnenfeld is "very, very supportive" of handicapped students. He said MIT "tends to make a fair effort for them," but improvements, such as the wheelchair lift on campus to allow a deaf person to communicate more easily with others, Language classes are especially difficult, he noted, since the language lab is geared for audio learning. The Dean's Office has been "very, very supportive" and has found funds for a Spanish tutor, Sonnenfeld noted.

Tom Hershey '85 reported "The Dean's Office has done a great deal in making things accessible in the dorm, and they are very open to suggestions." Since he needs to use crutches, Hershey drives to and from classes. Hershey said the Dean's Office helped him find a parking place right outside his dormitory as well as around the Institute.

Hershey noted "If something hasn't been done, it's because it hasn't been brought to their attention."

Both Sonnenfeld and Hershey noted other students and faculty have been very receptive to their difficulties.

Cambridge is not very accessible for a handicapped person, Kochanski said; there are few curb cuts in the sidewalks and many businesses have steps in their entrances.

"Nearly all the dormitories, and particularly 500 Memorial Drive, are equipped with special facilities for handicapped students," Rutledge noted. Next House has eight rooms specifically designed for handicapped students; these rooms have handles instead of doorknobs.

"Handicapped students could live here rather comfortably," said George Hosker, House Manager of 500 Memorial Drive, who noted the dormitory was designed to accommodate handicapped students. There are no steps on the main floor, and ramps connect the front entrance to the elevators. Each floor has one special bathroom, equipped with railings on the walls and a special sit-down shower with a hand-held shower head. The elevators have braille markings.

Other dormitories with similar facilities include Burton House and McCormick Hall, which have ramp systems and some bathrooms with enlarged shower stalls with hand-held shower heads. One suite in the New West Campus Houses has a specially designed kitchen with handles instead of doorknobs. East Campus is also fairly accessible to handicapped students, as the rooms are large and have their own sinks.

Samuelson analyzes 1982 electoral outcomes

By Ron Norman

Paul A. Samuelson, Institute professor and Nobel Laureate in economics, expressed optimism Wednesday about the outcome of the previous day's elections.

The Undergraduate Economics Association sponsored Samuelson's speech, entitled "The Evening After." The economist said the election was "favorable for the American economy."

National polls closely predicted the outcome of the Congressional elections in which the Democratic party gained 23 to 24 seats in the House of Representatives, while the Republican Party maintained control of the Senate. Samuelson said his optimism stems partly from the stock market's reaction to the liberal surge, Samuelson explained The Dow Jones Industrial Average Index rose by over 40 points on over 100 million shares traded Wednesday.

The election was, "a setback to Reagan economics," Samuelson declared and a defeat to the "radical right" supply side economists and monetarists.

"Sparen Sie 30¢" Viennese style, with a touch of cinnamon.

"Economissez 30¢" Smooth and light, French style.

"Risparmia 30¢" Creamy rich, with an orange twist.

"Tabahl 30¢" Delicious, like a chocolate after-dinner mint.

"Epargnez 30¢" Rich and chocolatey Swiss.

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