Course VI drops from 6,001

By Bart S. Kaliski

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) randomly eliminated at least 141 freshmen from a required course, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) this week, according to Professor Gerald S. Sussman '68.

Although 6,001's enrollment is down to 300 students, several freshmen still remain in the Registered Class.

An estimated 600 students attended the first lecture Tuesday, according to Peter Ellis '44, associate head of EECS. The department expected 450 students to enroll in the subject, based on estimates made by the Office of the Registrar last week, he said.

"It's totally unrealistic to try to schedule the number of students," said Associate Registrar Ronald F. Smith. The registrar's office does not keep track of the number of students that may register for a class. Each student rejected by EECS must submit a drop card, he noted. The overcrowding problem, he added, "is in Course VI's hands now."

Typical spring enrollment for the course is 20-25 percent, Sussman said; the number of students who registered for the course this year was 30 percent. In recent years the last two spring terms were 325 and 338. Even that number of students would have crowded the computer resources, he said.

The instability to predict the number of freshmen who enroll in 6,001 is a problem for EECS. Sussman noted that five faculty members, and ten teaching assistants presently instruct the class. EECS has neither the teachers nor the facilities to support a program of this proportion for the number of students in 6,001, he noted.

An increase in the number of EECS majors "bothers us," Ellis commented. There is no statistical indication that the number is increasing, he added, despite the enrollment growth in prior years. For the last few years, the number of majors has been close to constant, with about 250 electrical engineering (VI-1) and 100 computer science (VI-3) undergraduates.

The actual number of students rejected from 6,001 is unknown. Sussman continued. Only 450 forms were distributed at the first lecture to determine enrollment, and it is not known how many students attended but were not able to complete a form. EECS posted a list of 141 students to whom the form was sent.

EECS expected overenrollment before the term started. Ellis added, and informed the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO) at the end of the fall term. Unfortunately, he continued, the UASO was unable to resolve the problem because EECS advisors met with freshmen. "I can't recall ever having to turn away freshmen," Ellis said.

Freshmen will probably not be allowed to take free 6,001 in the fall, Ellis added. In past enrollments, about 80 freshmen are permitted to take the class, he explained, and a margin of 160 spaces would be created to accommodate those that were denied registration.

All EECS majors should be able to take free 6,001 in the fall of their sophomore years without schedule problems, Sussman explained. He does not understand why so many freshmen take the class, he added. The elimination of another introductory computer class, Introductory Computer Science (6.008), will alleviate that problem, he noted.

Sussman said: "We're pushing very hard for (Please turn to page 2)

By Robert E. Mualchan

The Harvard District Attorney's office does not believe showing the film "Deep Threat" at the Inn was illegal, according to First Assistant District Attorney Tom Reilly.

Had the MIT Lecture Series Committee (LSC) decided to show the film, the District Attorney's office "would not have taken any action," Reilly said. The Defense Authorization Act, he explained, a margin of 160 spaces would be created to accommodate those that were denied registration.

"The Institute would not move to stop the showing of the film," according to Dr. Louis Menard III, special assistant to the provost and chairman of the MIT Faculty Use Committee. "Our position is not to censor student activities," Menard said.

A suit brought by the show's producer by the showing of the movie could bring a complaint before the Committee on Discipline (COD), according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert L. Halfmann. "I don't think there's any question that such a complaint could be filed," he said.

If, for example, someone filed a complaint against the members of the LSC Executive Board, the COD would attempt to reconcile the parties' differences, according to Halfmann. "I don't think there is a role for the committee in the disciplinary process after some decision," he added.

The question of legality arose from two conflicting court cases. MIT sought an injunction against OPEC, Andropov, the Soviet, and Russian representatives. The hearing ended in March, during which the District Attorney's Office and the Solicitor General of Massachusetts each presented its position.

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SIPB report: we need more money, facilities

By David W. Bower

The Student Information Processing Board (SIPB) has facilitated computer access and has done its job well, but not completely effectively, according to Chairman Wendy Rowe '83. SIPB would like to make its service available to more students, she said, but does not have enough money.

SIPB allocated $94,796 to fund independent computer projects for nearly 1200 students on the Multics computer system last year, according to an annual report of the group submitted to the Undergraduate Association (UA) General Assembly (GA).

Each student receives an average of $50 in computer funding upon opening a SIPB account, but applicants generally request additional funding. "Something is wrong when the overwhelming thought of money, in an account, takes away from learning on a computer," Rowe said.

SIPB members are trying to generate support for additional funding from the MIT administration. The group has thus far received an additional $10,000 capital budget to purchase terminals for the 1982-83 academic year. The UA has not taken any action but discussions between SIPB and the administration are ongoing.

SIPB used its capital budget—the first such budget it has received in three years—to buy fourteen new video terminals for living rooms.

The Office of the Provost provides the group's funding, most of which is used to purchase time on the Information Processing Services (IPS) Honeywell Multics and IBM 170 system. SIPB also buys time on the Joint Computer Facility (JCF) VAX-11/782.

SIPB's $11,000 administrative budget supplied computer resources to students who "explored problems of personal interest, did homework assignment calculations, did text parsing—basically, familiarized themselves with computer operation," according to SIPB's annual report to the GA.

The group also acts as a clearinghouse for computer information on campus, compiling on all types of computing, supplying terminals and software to living groups, and maintaining a list of computer job opportunities. SIPB wishes to expand terminal service and update its equipment to include a 24-hour facility. It does not now have such capabilities.

Rogers University has a 24-hour, on-campus computer facility with 100 terminals. Rowe noted. MIT has no such facility. Terminals are available on Sunday only at the Student Center libraries and certain fraternities.

SIPB's annual report claims the committee faces a shortage of space, as well as of money. SIPB will return to approximately thirty individuals and offices, including Professors Fernando J. Corbato '56, director of computing and telecommunications resources; IPS Director Weston J. Turner; President Paul E. Gray '54, and Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBey.

Congress may cut funds for draft bill

By Will Doberty

At least 35 members of Congress recently introduced legislation to severely cut back the budget and influence of the Selective Service System.

The 62 bills follow the flurry of student financial aid office activity responding to the Department of Defense's regulations that deny federal aid to those that do not register for the draft.

To encourage registrants, legislators have added provisions to increase computer access and have decried for their role in regulating federal student aid. Yossarian, a report to the GA.

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