US Congressman will speak at riot

By John J. Ying

US Representative Bruce A. Morrison '63, D-Mass., and John D. Duff, chancellor of Massachusetts higher education, will speak at the "Annual Spontaneous Triton Riot" at Kettle Auditorium this Friday.

"It should not become scapegoats for economic difficulties, whether at the national or local level," Morrison said.

Ronald Reagan's claim that federal aid to education must be a casualty of the war against budget deficits is shortsighted and counter-productive," Morrison continued. "We cannot run a modern economy without a population trained for its operation, development, and maintenance."

"It has been demonstrated in Massachusetts that there is a very strong link between the prosperity of the state and the strength of its higher education system," Duff said.

"The essential point is this: this is not a rally directed against MIT," commented Richard A. Cowan, president of the Class of '84 and chairman of the tuition riot committee. "We're not saying MIT is a lousy institution. Rather we're saying the primary reason for the students' distress has been the federal policies."

"If we can show to MIT that students really care about where they're going to sit down, then I could understand," Cowan said, "it demonstrates the students are concerned... We want to have a serious rally."

"Both public and independent higher education in the Commonwealth," Duff noted, "are an important component in this modern economy, and so we must ensure that MIT's future is assured.

"Government dollars spent on public elementary and secondary schools, vocational and technical education, and loans and grants to colleges and post-graduate students," Morrison agreed, "constitute investment in our economic future just as surely as does money spent on new steel plants. Both forms of investment must be encouraged or financed by government.

"Both are necessary to produce a strong workforce capable of producing the quality goods and services expected of a modern society."

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There will be at least two shuttle flights per month by late 1984, McNair said. "We will need all the help we can get," he said, urging interested students to apply to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut training program.

McNair spoke at an event of Black History Month, sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Black Graduate Student Association, Black Student Union, the Lecture Series Committee and the Office of Minority Affairs.

Dick Gregory, a possible 1984 presidential candidate, will deliver a lecture Apr. Thursday to conclude the Black History Month events at MIT. Gregory will discuss the impact of Racism in America.

Ivan Van Sertima, professor of anthropology at Rutgers University, discussed his book "They Came Before Columbus" at another event of Black History Month on Feb. 22. He said the present oppression of blacks throughout the world is largely attributed to the earlier prevention of the study of African history.

"There are primitive people in every culture, including Europe, Van Sertima said. A civilization's history can not be understood by only studying its isolated, rural cultures, he added.

Historians have studied only peripheral, primitive elements of African civilization, Van Sertima claimed.

"Western historians rarely ac- (Please turn to page 11)