Gray: MIT will abide by US draft-aid regulations

By Barry S. Surman

MIT will abide by a federal law linking financial aid to draft registration, President Paul E. Gray '54 said in a statement issued yesterday, despite deep concern that the federal government has invoked in its enforcement. "It makes no sense to me," Gray said, "to couple educational opportunity with beliefs about the military draft and to apply that connection only to needy males in a particular age bracket. This is the law of the land, however, and MIT will enforce it."

The law - commonly referred to as the Solomon Amendment - requires statements certifying draft registration from students receiving federal educational assistance. The requirement was originally to take effect July 1, but a US District Court in Minneapolis prevented its implementation on constitutional grounds. The US Supreme Court, however, overturned that court's decision in June.

Leonard V. Gallagher '54, director of student financial assistance at MIT, said the required statements will be sent to all students this week and that the Institute is "very concerned" that the law will be enforced.

"Because of the court delays in putting the law and the regulations into effect," Gallagher said, "it was not until the second week in July that we learned from the Department of Education specifically what will be expected of us. By then, he said, "all undergraduate packets for next year have been sent out and some already mailed."

The Education Department.

Hewlett-Packard gives computers

By Jack Link

Hewlett-Packard Company is donating 75 personal computers worth $3 million to the Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, according to Department Head Joel Moses. The computers will be used in two courses required for all students majoring in either electrical engineering or computer science: Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) and a new computer class (6.004). 6.004 is expected to be introduced next spring, replacing CompScience 6.033.

Hewlett-Packard spokesman Mary Ann Easley explained the donation, "My understanding is that there will be close cooperation between MIT and HP Labs, and that advanced programs and language will be studied."

Negotiations between MIT and Hewlett-Packard began last summer when Professors Harold Abelson 73 and Gerald J. Sussman '68 informed Moses that Hewlett-Packard was interested in making a donation. Sussman helped develop software to permit 6,000 students to plan SCHEME on the new Hewlett-Packard.

By John J. Ying

Approximately 100 freshmen will be given crowded housing this fall, according to Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood.

The Dean's Office expects 1932 freshmen, approximately 700 freshmen, and 75 transfer and readmitted students live in the dormitory system next year. Sherwood said the dormitories house 2635 students if no one is given crowded housing. The school admitted 1107 students, and approximately 1060 of the 1817 students admitted are expected to register in September.

The Class of 1987 will contain both a fewer number and a lower percentage of women than last year's freshman class. The Class of 1987 will have 249 women, comprising 22.5 percent of the class, whereas 270 women enrolled in the Class of 1986 to form 23.7 percent of that group.

The number of minority students will about the same or slightly lower than last year's composition, according to John C. McLellan, senior associate director of the admissions office. The Institute admitted more minority students than last year, but it is "very difficult" to convince them to attend MIT, McLellan said. "The number of minority students entering doesn't make us happy - we want more of them."

McLellan expects 91 transfer students to enter MIT this fall. This number is slightly lower than the 85 who enrolled last fall.

The MIT admissions office expects a freshmen class size of 1075. The final freshman class size will drop by approximately 30-40 students, according to Hantleman. "Every year the number of students who actually show up on campus is near the number who said they're coming but is far lower," he said.

Hantleman said the decrease in the number of students is due to a very wide variety of reasons. "We call it the summer melt."

MDC bans woodsurfing

By Jack Link

To the dismay of members of the MIT Nautical Association, woodsurfing on the Charles River has been banned. The ban includes both the upper and lower Charles River basins, which extends from Watertown to the new Charles River Dam.

Woodsurfing, or boardailing as it is also known, is a relatively new sport practiced within the MIT Nautical Association - the group now owns nine sailboards. As the latter name implies, a sail board consists of a sail atop a surfboard-like board that supports the sailor.

The ban, which went into effect July 1, was instituted by the Metropolitan District Commission - the state agency which is responsible for most of the parks and waterways in the metropolitan Boston area.

Capt. Richard J. Penniman of the MDC's Marine Division said the ban was instituted because of "public health reasons. I've been diving in the Charles for 20 years, and I happen to know personally that there are at least three strains of viral hepatitis there."

The MDC public information office also listed concern over water quality as the sole reason for the ban. "The Charles River is rated below Class C [see box], which makes it unfit for swimming," according to spokesman Joanne Aragon.

MDC classifies water quality

By Jack Link

Although it may not be the primary concern in the decision to ban woodsurfing on the Charles, questions about the river's water quality have been raised.

The MDC groups fresh water into three classifications. To the state, these classes have the following meaning:

Class A is for drinking and swimming, and is suitable to be used as public drinking water.

Class B is suitable for primary (swimming) and secondary (boating) contact.

Class C is suitable for secondary contact only.

The water classifications are based on the number of fecal coliform colonies found per 100 ml. of water. A reading below 100 would imply that the mean count is at 100 or below, and there are likely high concentrations. According to Paul BiPirotto of environmental quality, "The Charles River isn't bad. I mean, something's not going to drip dirt if you drop in in