**Bok: no federal aid to Harvard non-registrants**

By Barry S. Surman

Harvard University will not provide financial aid to replace federal funds denied students who do not register for the draft, president Derek Bok said last week.

"In our view, the university should be reluctant to offer assistance and encouragement of any kind to students who violate the law," Bok stated.

"One can appreciate the courage of those who are willing to live by their principles," he said. "But individuals who choose to stand on their convictions and disobey the law must normally bear the consequences themselves."

MIT announced last month that it also will obey the US Department of Education regulations stemming from the Solomon Amendment, a law denying federal grants and loans to non-registrants.

"This is the law of the land," President Paul E. Gray '54 said. "... and MIT will enforce it."

Enforcing the law entails collecting statements from all students receiving federal aid, certifying that they either have registered for the draft or are ineligible for registration.

Friday was the deadline for MIT students to return the completed statement forms to the Student Financial Aid Office to retain their eligibility for federal aid.

Leonard V. Gallagher '54, director of student financial aid, said his office will send letters and duplicate forms to MIT students who have failed to submit the required statement.

The letter will inform those students that the Institute "is essentially backing off on our commitment on each of the [federal financial aid] programs," Gallagher said. The Institute will, however, reinstate federal aid to students submitting their forms after the deadline, he said.

MIT's billing system will allow many students to file their statements as late as registration day — Sept. 12 — without penalty, Gallagher said.

Bok, in his written "Statement to the Harvard Community," expresses "doubts about the constitutionality and "questions the fairness" of the Solomon Amendment." A new law, "Definitely we're going to rewrite the law," said David Lenhardt, senior civil engineer for the MDC. "Our main concern is pedestrians: it's easy to divert motor traffic."

Lenhardt said the commission hopes to begin construction of a replacement bridge spanning the Charles River at Massachusetts Avenue within two years. The project would then take about two years to complete.

Replacing the 2166-foot, 136-inch-long bridge — which is often more measured in Massachusetts — would cost "somewhere around $20 million," Lenhardt said.

The two outer lanes of the four-lane bridge have already been closed to all traffic, and the remaining lanes closed to trucks and buses. After MDC inspectors found cracks in steel pins supporting the structure, their inspection followed the collapse into the Charles River of a section of a similarly-constructed bridge on Interstate 95 in Connecticut. The June 28 accident killed three people and seriously injured three others.

Current plans call for preserving a strip of the old bridge for pedestrian traffic while the replacement is under construction, Lenhardt said.

"The new Harvard Bridge will not look substantially different from the old, green span it replaces," he said. "We're going to provide as much of the old character as possible."

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**Professor prompts sweetener use cut**

By Diana ben-Aaron

Efforts by an MIT professor have led to a voluntary decision by the Coca-Cola Corporation to reduce the levels of a new artificial sweetener in its diet soft drinks.

Professor Richard J. Wurtman, M.D., MIT professor of neuroendocrine regulation, suggests that aspartame, a product of the G.D. Searle Corporation, can affect neurotransmitters in the human brain.

This spring, Wurtman sent letters to the Food and Drug Administration, Searle, and others detailing his laboratory findings and calling for more study of the sweetener's effects on human subjects. He also considered filing a formal objection against the sweetener, but decided not to after hearing the Coca-Cola company's announcement.

"The soft-drink industry decided, on its own, to be more concerned with what I was saying than the FDA was," said Wurtman. The letters produced no change in the FDA approval of aspartame for unlimited use in soft drinks, which was issued July 1, ten months after it was sought by Searle and almost two years after aspartame was approved for use in foods.

Aspartame, 170 times sweeter than sugar and twice as costly, is now used as a substitute and an additive in instant drink mixes. (Please turn to page 2)

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**MDC to replace Harvard Bridge**

By Barry S. Surman

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is developing plans to replace the Harvard Bridge without disrupting pedestrian traffic, an engineer for the state agency said yesterday.

"Definitely we're going to replace the bridge," said David Lenhardt, senior civil engineer for the MDC. "Our main concern is pedestrians: it's easy to divert motor traffic."

Lenhardt said the commission hopes to begin construction of a replacement bridge spanning the Charles River at Massachusetts Avenue within two years. The project would then take about two years to complete.

Replacing the 2166-foot, 136-inch-long bridge — which is often more measured in Massachusetts — would cost "somewhere around $20 million," Lenhardt said. The two outer lanes of the four-lane bridge have already been closed to all traffic, and the remaining lanes closed to trucks and buses. After MDC inspectors found cracks in steel pins supporting the structure, their inspection followed the collapse into the Charles River of a section of a similarly-constructed bridge on Interstate 95 in Connecticut. The June 28 accident killed three people and seriously injured three others.

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**Whale, whale**

As eager whale watchers look on, a pair of humpback whales (right) feeds in waters about five miles off the coast of Gloucester, Mass. Above, another pair, perhaps less concerned with the spectators, sounds nearby.