

McBay dismisses Hope; refuses comment

(Continued from page 1)
of the issues listed in McBay's letter.

Strong justification needed

McBay would need justification far more substantial than a conflict of personality or administrative style to dismiss an employee of Hope's standing, administration sources noted. Some speculated charges of ineffectiveness or malfeasance against Hope may be behind McBay's action.

The dismissal "shouldn't be a public issue," Randolph said. "It's not in the best interest of the parties involved or of students." "I'm not out to embarrass the Institute," Hope said, "I care too much about it." She also said has not ruled out legal action against MIT.

Much of Hope's attention as assistant dean has been directed to advising minority students and minority student groups, and advocating their interests within the Institute.

Students, alumni react

"Mary Hope has been a strong advocate and supporter of the women students as well as minorities," said Elizabeth J. Salkind '85, president of the Association for Women Students. "We will fight for her as she has for us."

"The credibility of the Dean's Office and students' willingness to confide in them has been seriously damaged," Salkind said. "Students don't believe that the

deans have our interests at heart."

The president of Black Alumni of MIT, Dr. Michael Fant '73, said his group was "shocked and surprised" by rumors of Hope's dismissal.

"We are trying to gather a sense of the facts," Fant said. "With a clearer picture, we'll make a further response."

The Black Students' Union is "extremely concerned" with Hope's dismissal, according to a statement issued last night by co-chairman Deborah Rennie '85.

Hope "has been effective and supportive in her dealings with students," the group stated. "... We do not believe that her dismissal is justified."

Rennie said her group has collected 190 signatures on a separate statement supporting Hope and seeking an explanation for her dismissal, but declined to release a complete text of the petition.

In a letter addressed to MIT President Paul E. Gray '54, and distributed to students and administrators, Arnold Contreras '84 characterized the dismissal as

part of a "conservative, reactionary direction the MIT administration is pursuing against the black, Chicano, Puerto Rican and Native American community on campus."

"Dean Hope has been the only reliable advocate for the minority students, ..." Contreras wrote. She "has never failed to support

or console us, especially at times when your administration could care less."

Raymond Samuel '84, chairman of the Undergraduate Association Finance Board, said without Hope's advice and support he probably would not have remained involved in student gov-

ernment. "I don't know what I would have done without her," he said.

Hope said she does not yet know what she will do come the end of the month. "I love my job; the students were my life," she said, but "I don't foresee" taking another job at MIT.

notes

Announcements

The **Second Annual MIT Food Collection Drive** is on through November 24. Donations of non-perishable food can be made around campus all week.

The 1983-1984 **I. Austin Kelly III Competition in humanistic scholarship** is now open. Two prizes of \$250.00 for scholarly/critical papers in literary studies, history, musicology, anthropology, or archeology will be awarded. For details and contest rules, stop by room 14N-409, or call x3-4441.

The MIT Writing Program reminds students that various prizes for writing are awarded every year. Prizes are given out for freshman writing, manuscript-length works, scientific writing, and engineering writing. For more information and rules for entry, contact Muriel Zimmerman, x3-6475.

The MIT U.H.F. Repeater Association offers radio communications assistance to any MIT event free of charge. If you or your group are interested, contact Richard D. Thomas, room W20-401, or call 354-8262 for details.

MIT bicycle riders should be aware of the passage of a new law requiring use of a headlight by any bicyclist riding at night. For an informational pamphlet, call 491-RIDE.

The Registrar's Office reminds students that **November 23 is drop date**. Correction cards will not be accepted without all necessary signatures. Be sure to obtain all signatures well before the deadline, since drop date is the day before Thanksgiving vacation, and some offices may close early that day. Contact your advisor or department headquarters with questions.

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