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 disband a group of employees. Hope's dismissal, standing, administration sources noted. Some speculated charges of inefficacy 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 going to embrace the public issue," Randolph said. "We will advocate and support of the minority student groups, and advising minority students and MIT."

Much of Hope's attention as assistant dean has been directed to advising minority students and advising 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 '83, 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. McFarland '73, said his group was "shocked and surprised" by Hope's dismissal.

"We are trying to gather a sense of the facts," FAST 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 dismissal is justified."

Rennie said her group has coordinated 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, Arold Cotters '84 characterized the dismissal as part of a "conservative, reaction- ary direction the MIT administration is pursuing against the black, Hispanic, Native and Native American community on campus."

"Hope has been the only reliable advocate for the minority students," Cotters wrote. "She has never failed to support or console us, especially at times when the administration could care less."

Raymond Samuel '64, chair- man of the Undergraduate Asso- ciation Finance Board, said with- out Hope's advice and support he probably would not have remained involved in student govern- ment. "I don't know what I would have done without her," he said.

Hope said she does not 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."

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