Studies of MIT, Harvard reveal sexual harassment

By Kevin D. Hurst

A Harvard survey on sexual harassment released earlier in the fall exposes problems also found at MIT, according to Mary P. Rowe, special assistant to the president. The report, titled “Unwanted Attention: A Survey on Sexual Harassment,” describes the frequency and types of sexual harassment determined from a survey sent to undergraduate and graduate students. The survey, distributed to an equal number of men and women, had a 70 percent response rate, and revealed that 11 percent of graduate women and 34 percent of undergraduate women had experienced sexual harassment. Among undergraduate women, half had experienced sexual harassment, and the percentage reporting harassment increased with grade level.

Over 70 percent of women who reported harassment chose to ignore the harassment; 14 percent of graduate women and 9 percent of undergraduate women sought advice from university officials. A large, perhaps 80 percent of women strongly disagreed that complaints of sexual harassment are overreactions to normal sexual attraction, but only 25 percent of men took that position.

By Simson L. Garfinkel

The MIT Libraries will install one of the first bibliographic computer systems for public services for the MIT community, the system currently in use at the Institute of Technology of Maryland, and the University of Maryland also use the system. According to Shirley M. Dickson, assistant director of library services, the Ion system will be used to cover the benefit fee.

Dickson near decision on fee

By Thomas Huang

Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 will soon decide whether MIT will waive a requirement for student groups to pay a fee for group activities and organizations that employ students.

"He will make the decision after speaking with" President Paul E. Gray '54, Senior Vice President and Secretary, Richard M. McBryde, dean for student affairs. "Then he will get back to me," Dickson said.

Dickson was unavailable for comment yesterday, and was in meetings until early evening.

Stephen D. Immerman, assistant dean for student affairs, said he believes the decision would be final.

Michael P. Witt '84, Undergraduate Association president, said, "I'm sure [the requirement] will be overturned. The problem's probably going to be resolved soon."

McBay said she met with some of MIT's financial officers last Tuesday to review last year's negotiations with federal auditors which altered the employee benefit program. Dickson was also present at the meeting. McKay said she recommended to Dickson that student groups be "forgiven" the benefit contribution, and that Institute funds be used to cover the benefits charge on student activities and organizations that employ students.

"It is our position that no student group be required to pay" toward the benefit fee, she said. "The financial people were positive today." McKay said Dickson was very receptive to what we had to say. I hope that we will be successful," in waiving the requirement, she said.

Dickson and many of the financial officers think the inclusion of student groups in the benefit program was an oversight. McKay asserted.

Immerman said he believes the impact of the charge on student groups was "more of a consideration in last year's negotiations," because the financial officials did not expect an adverse effect.

The Committee on Student Affairs, a standing committee of the faculty, met with members of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs yesterday, in part to discuss the benefit fee.

Witt said, "Most of the people that weren't part of the Dean's Office were laughing, saying, 'I don't believe this is happening. They just overlooked the (Please turn to page 11)"

Memorial service for Miller will be today

By Drew Blakeman

Memorial services for missing hiker Michael J. "Mick" Miller '84 will be held today at 7 p.m. in the MIT Chapel.

Miller has been missing since Oct. 23, when he and two friends went hiking on Mount Lafayette in Franconia Notch, N. H. Miller's friends said they last saw him heading toward the 5200-foot summit.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department searched the mountain for a week after Miller disappeared, but found no trace.

High winds and chilly temperatures, not unusual for late October, forced an end to the search and left Miller little chance of survival.

Miller had lived in Senior House and was a student in the Department of Electrical Engineering. He was also a disc jockey on MIT's radio station WMBR, and worked for Radiobeat, a Boston recording studio.

The bigger the show, the harder the core.

GA members mail obscenity

By Simson L. Garfinkel

James A. MacStravic '84 and Ilih Nir '86, members of an Undergraduate Association General Assembly both admitted Sunday to signing a letter containing an obviously addressed to the editorial board of The Tech.

The letter was written as "[Expletive] you." MacStravic and Nir enclosed a clipping of a Nov. 8 letter titled "Referendum on pornography" that was written to [the Undergraduate Association General Assembly].

Ilih and myself, and not towards the [Undergraduate Association General Assembly] as the supposed knowledge we wrote. The letter was written by a computer.

"The letter was written on be- half of Jim and myself, and not towards the [General Assembly]. We wrote it as concerned undergraduates," Nir said. "I think the letter said "The letter was written on behalf of Jim and myself, and not towards the General Assembly.""

Robert E. MacIntosh '85, edi- tor of The Tech, and the Tech's editorial director and administrative chairman of its editorial board, confirmed receiving the letter last fall. "It was shocked and dis- mayed that two supposedly re- sponsible members of the Gener- al Assembly would stoop to ob- scene invective in response to (Please turn to page 13)"