Harvard's commencement scheduled on Jewish holiday

By Ronald Becker

Harvard University's commencement will take place June 7, despite a conflict with the Jewish holiday of Shavuot. The Harvard Commencement Committee decided that the inconvenience to the rest of the community justifies keeping the date, according to David Rosen, director of the Harvard News Office.

MIT changed its commencement date two years ago because of a similar conflict, said Mary L. Morrissey, director of Campus Information Services. The MIT facility approved the change by a vote of 85 to 13. The MIT Commencement Committee will do its best to avoid future conflicts, she said.

Commencement at Harvard traditionally occurs on the Thursday following the end of the academic year. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar-based, the date occasionally conflicts with Shavuot. The next conflict will occur in 1999. The Commencement Committee will take this conflict into account in the future, Rosen said.

MIT sets its commencement date by the academic calendar. Since MIT's commencement is traditionally scheduled on Jewish holiday following finals, the conflict occurs only when Memorial Day falls that Monday, forcing commencement to the preceding Friday.

Harvard's commencement is a week-long event which generally draws 25,000 people to Cambridge, the majority of whom are not Jewish, Rosen said. The plans are made more than a year in advance, he added.

Rabbi Ben-Zion Gold of Harvard Hillel said the problem is one of conflicting traditions. Although the conflict has occurred before, Gold said, this is the first year Jewish students have protested the issue at Harvard.

Rosen said the rabbis Harvard contacted do not foresee a direct conflict with receiving a degree on Shavuot, since the holiday is a commemoration of learning. Harvard has provided special arrangements for Jews who wish to attend the commencement exercises, Rosen said. Special lodging will be provided within walking distance of the ceremonies, since the holiday prohibits the use of a car or other means of transportation, he said.

The university will also offer on campus religious services and kosher meals. No one has requested any of those arrangements, Rosen said.

Since MIT's commencement is generally scheduled the Monday following finals, the conflict occurs only when Memorial Day falls on a Monday, forcing commencement to the preceding Friday.

Harvard's commencement is a week-long event which generally draws 25,000 people to Cambridge, the majority of whom are not Jewish, Rosen said. The plans are made more than a year in advance, he added.

Rabbi Ben-Zion Gold of Harvard Hillel said the problem is one of conflicting traditions. Although the conflict has occurred before, Gold said, this is the first year Jewish students have protested the issue at Harvard.

Rosen said the rabbis Harvard contacted do not foresee a direct conflict with receiving a degree on Shavuot, since the holiday is a commemoration of learning. Harvard has provided special arrangements for Jews who wish to attend the commencement exercises, Rosen said. Special lodging will be provided within walking distance of the ceremonies, since the holiday prohibits the use of a car or other means of transportation, he said.

The university will also offer on campus religious services and kosher meals. No one has requested any of those arrangements, Rosen said.

COMING UP IN FRONTLINE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1984

INTERESTED IN ART?

Register now for:
PHOTOGRAPHY
cERAMICS
dRAWING
CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING
ETCHING
PAINTING
MIXED MEDIA
and more!

Give art a chance at the
MIT STUDENT ART ASSOCIATION
Student Center, Rm 429
MIT x3-7019

Biogen Research Corp.

We have an immediate opening in our Cambridge laboratories for a qualified individual to run a facility dedicated to:

cDNA Cloning.

Candidates should have a BS/MS and several years of experience in connecting cDNA libraries and have a strong background in molecular biology.

The ideal individual should be able to work independently. All replies will be treated in confidence.


COME TO A GET ACQUAINTED

RENDÉZVOUS

THURSDAY, FEB. 9 • 7:30-9:00 PM. STUDENT CENTER, ROOM 400.
SPONSORED BY THE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CORPORATE DECISIONS, INC.

We are a young, fast-growing company that assists management in making key business decisions in a variety of settings

- establish corporations
- venture capital
- leveraged buy-outs

We are looking for extremely capable graduates to join us for a two year associate program. We offer:

- exposure to a wide variety of business situations
- an opportunity to work closely with senior members of the firm in a small setting

INFO PRESENTATION MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 4:30 PM
BUILDING 4 ROOM 149
C. WILLIAM STEVENSON
Corporate Decisions, Inc.
One Devonshire Place, Suite 1106
Boston, Mass. 02109

Find Out for Yourself

Get the inside story on the latest success in the computer industry, Tandem.

Tandem Computers has set new standards for reliability, data integrity, flexibility, and on-line processing for large-scale data processing. We pioneered the field of fault-tolerant computing. And with our new TXP® system, we’ve taken on-line transaction processing further than ever imagined. As a result, businesses and organizations around the world have made Tandem a rapidly growing, successful corporation.

An exemplary environment. Beyond Tandem’s business success, however, the company has been cited as an example of innovative and effective management. These two elements—advanced products and outstanding management—create a work environment unlike any you’ll find elsewhere.

The Tandem Story—February 16, 1984

Tandem representatives will present the Tandem Story—the company’s history, where it is today, and its exciting plans for the future. It’s the ideal way to find out for yourself why beginning your career with Tandem is your first step toward success. Check your placement office for time and place. We are an equal opportunity employer, m/f/h/v.

Makers of TXP, the most powerful on-line computer in business today.

(Trademark of Tandem Computers, Inc.)