Francis E. Low to retire as Provost

By Elin S. Sports

Provost Francis E. Low confirmed Wednesday he will retire as provost on June 30, 1985. He will retire when there is a new president. "Low said he expects the term of President Paul E. Gray '44 to continue beyond two years and believes it would not be reasonable to stay the entire time. A president and a provost usually serve concurrent terms," Low said. "A reasonable provost should resign when there is a new president."

Low began his senior as provost on July 1, 1980, and he thought a five-year tenure was a good idea, the provost said. Low's retirement date marks the end of this five-year period.

The role of the provost is "to do the best he can for the Institute, to build on the things that are happening in the Institute, to build on those strengths and make the strengths are used," he continued. "It's a chance to try to really try to do something that is meaningful and useful to the Institute." (Please turn to page 12)

20 percent of freshmen pass writing test

By Craig Jungwirth

Less than 20 percent of freshmen who entered MIT this year passed the Freshman Essay Evaluation, according to figures released by the Committee on the Writing Requirement.

Of the 1031 students who took the test, 26 percent failed and 45 percent passed marginally. Students who failed the evaluation demonstrated "serious errors in . . . structure, syntax, word choice, grammar mechanics, or tone" in their essays, according to Bonnie Walters, coordinator of the Committee on the Writing Requirement.

Trends in writing quality have been consistent over the past three years, Walters said. More students "marginally" passed the test this year than last year, while fewer students failed the test, she explained.

The essay test, administered during Residence Orientation Week, gave students an "immedi- ate evaluation of MIT's perception of their writing abilities," according to Walters.

She instructed students to write a clear, coherent expository essay for the general reader in response to one of three questions. The questions dealt with financial aid, family planning programs promoting abortion, and policies regarding Olympic boycotts. Students were given 90 minutes to complete the test.

Professional readers and members of the MIT community evaluated the essays. Each was read once to determine the grade. The Freshman Essay Evaluation is one of four alternatives for completing Phase I of the MIT Writing Requirement, according to James Paris, director of the writing program. (Editor's note: see next p. on 2)

Students can fulfill Phase I of the Writing Requirement by submitting a portfolio of writing examples. MIT also offers four under-graduate subjects which can be used to fulfill Phase I of the Writing Requirement. There was "no oversubscription to the subjects," according to Walters. (Please turn to page 11)

GSC elects two as treasurers for 1984

By Michael J. Garrett

The Graduate Student Council unanimously elected two freshman students yesterday. The issues of graduate housing and educational grants also emerged during the council's first meeting since April.

Brett Barnett G and Steve Smeket G will share the duties of the GSC treasurer.

The GSC treasurer is normally responsible for GSC accounts and records. The treasurer is also on the Board of Governors of the Mayer-Charlton Fund, an establishment operated by the GSC. However, in the current term, the GSC decided to split the two responsibilities among two persons.

The move was made because several students thought a new position, the normal one-person arrangement, according to Ron Stein G, present treasurer.

Kerry, Shamie win primaries

By Amy Sommer

Lt. Gov. John F. Kerry and businessman Shamie Stanakie respectively won the Democratic and Republican nominations for the US Senate last Tuesday.

Kerry beat three-term Rep. James M. Shannon from Massachusetts's 5th Congressional District, Massachusetts Secretary of State Michael J. Connolly, and former Massachusetts House Speaker David M. Barbiey.

The lieutenant governor won 41 percent of the vote, Shannon 38 percent, Barbiey 11 percent, and Connolly 10 percent. Shannon declared victory before the vote had been counted. Kerry declared his victory by 6 p.m. (Please turn to page 2)