Liberal arts help engineers

By Amy Summer

MIT students are in demand in the job market, but they should broaden their curriculum, according to Robert R. Wetherall, Director of the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

"Firms tell us that MIT students do well," Wetherall said.

"They come recruiting here [and] on the whole, sit out one last, or near last, if their recruiting office holds out and puts them out.

A student's major, however, "doesn't matter much if the student has explored other areas," Wetherall said.

It is important for the student to balance his curriculum and explore practical applications of it, he said. "For example, architecture majors [who take] economics or explore MIT's new real estate development program are probably valuable forms of [sustained] real estate investment," Wetherall said.

But, said students benefit from taking liberal arts courses here or at Wellesley, because "they give a broader perspective, more important, come more articulate, and improve [one's] understanding of people. All of this shows up in an interview," he explained.

For liberal arts majors, Wetherall suggested taking technically oriented courses. "Economics is an obvious one. Economics is quantitative and analytical; it is a field important to hiring companies," he said.

A junior year abroad is another "wonderful complement" to an MIT education, he said.

"Engineering students aren't needed more," he said. "In the old days more engineering students were needed, they were white suits and dark suits. Now, they are wonderful in tune with the outside world."

The companies are "finding people [at MIT] that you would expect to find at liberal arts colleges," he said.

"Sometimes teachers who are out of touch with industry but have practical experience are more effective," Wetherall said.

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The tech photo by Sidhu Banerjee.

St. House discusses drug policy

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The tucker would be expected to direct the student to appropriate support services in lieu of bringing the matter to the housemaster.

Under the proposed policy, a tucker would still be allowed to keep any cases confidential where a student comes to him with a drug-related problem, according to Kypreos.

Sherwood said a certain amount of discretion would be maintained within a house. The Institute, "hires [graduate tutors] to use their own judgement," he commented.

Graduate tutors would be required, however, to take "some action" if they are aware of a specific drug incident, Sherwood said.

The tucker would "be liable for safety," he said, "but MIT, if they silently condone such an action, would be liable for safety.

Some students approved the proposed policy's description of the resident assistant's role in the executive of the student's position with respect to drug issues, while others objected to the specific language of the proposal and suggested an increase in the number of warnings students would receive before being referred to the Dean's Office.

Disciplinary action by the Dean's Office would include one or more of the following: compulsory attendance at Institute drug education programs, a one-year suspension from the house or the residential system, or expulsion, as well as the standards of the academic Dean's Office.

Sherwood denied the existence of any recent drug-related suits brought against MIT, but said "there have been a lot of close calls to date."

The Dean's Office and the MIT Campus Police are investigating possible action to curtail the sale of illicit goods to students by an industrial grade nitrous oxide supplier in Burlington, Mass., according to Sherwood.

Legislation may also be introduced in the Massachusetts State House banning industrial grade sales to unauthorized purchasers.

Housing Office has staff changes

By Charles Jankowski

MIT's Department of Housing and Food Services has made several changes in its operational staff in the last few months, according to Gene Braham, Director of Housing and Food Services.

Braham recently hired Larry Maguire to replace George E. Hartwell as Associate Director of Housing and Food Services. Hartwell left the position at the end of August after four and one-half years in the department.

Maguire had been an Administrative Officer for MIT's Research Laboratory for Electronics since 1982.

Assistant Directors for Housing Richard Sorato and Judy Douglas also recently left the department.

Douglas left her position in September to become executive officer of the residence section of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.

Food Service unit manager Margaret Rodger and East Campus house manager Norman Magnuson, also recently left their positions, according to Braham.

Bob Ramsey replaced Rodger as the food service manager at 500 Memorial Drive. Ramsey formerly worked with food production in the Student Center.

John Rutledge, assistant operations manager of the Department of Housing and Food Services, and Susan Lovich '85, East Campus desk captain, are responsible for the East Campus house manager's office until a permanent replacement can be found for Magnuson.

"We should be getting a new manager next week," Lisvica said.

The numerous personnel changes over the summer left the department short-staffed. Braham said, "Everybody tried to pick up the slack where they could."

"This is a very human resource intensive department," Maguire said, "but we've really got to get to know all of the people. We're looking at the organizations to simplify and clarify the organization of the departments.

Future changes in Housing and Food Services will be implemented after a useful study of the department, Maguire said.

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