Summary of last year's top news stories at MIT

HOUSING
September 1984
- More than 90 percent of students assigned to Institute houses receive their first choice, with 88 students in Limbo after the first round of the housing lottery. Approximately 170 freshmen pledge fraternities, and 107 rooms in the dormitories are crowded.
- The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) institutes a new policy regarding the presence of alcohol on at dormitory parties. Any group which intends to serve alcohol must first receive a permit from the ODSA. A party at which alcohol is to be served must end at 1 a.m.
- Senator House Housemistress Margaret J. Keyser proposes a policy on how to deal with drug abuse in the MIT Housing System. Among the points of the policy is a requirement that Graduate Residents report any observed or known use of illegal drugs to the ODSA.

January 1985
- Housemasters of MacGregor House, Ashdown House and East Campus announce their resignations effective at the end of the school year.

ACADEMICS
September 1984
- Under 20 percent of the freshman class pass the Freshman Essay Evaluation. Another 45 percent pass marginally.

October 1984
- The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAPA) decides, after heavy debate, to restrict selection of majors for the Class of 1989. CUAPA had considered allowing no more than 54 students to enter the Engineering program.

November 1984
- Undergraduate enrollment in the Sloan School of Management (Course 14X) increases from 645 to 725.

December 1984
- The Departments of Physics and Mathematics announce plans to offer computer science options in an attempt to reduce overcrowding in Course VI.
- MIT announces that Michael C. Bohnke, head of undergraduate admissions at Tufts University, will become the new MIT director of admissions on May 1.

January 1985
- Course VI overcrowding concerns are raised as 428 students preregister for Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.005).

ATHENA
October 1984
- Jerome H. Saltzer '61, professor of Computer Science, is appointed technical director of Project Athena.
- Athena Director Steven R. Lerman '72 reports that Project Athena is "behind schedule" due to equipment delays and re-allocations by IBM.

March 1985
- The east wing of the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center library is opened as a Project Athena cluster for unreserved use by all undergraduates. Other Athena facilities are available only for those students taking courses which require Athena accounts.

PROTESTS AND POLITICS
September 1984
- MIT formally applies for an exemption from a Massachusetts law requiring employers to inform their employees about hazardous substances in the work area. The public hearing required by compliance would create an administrative problem and "take the focus off safety," says Safety Officer Director John M. Frentz.

February 1985
- Protesters disrupt an American-Soviet conference on electrical engineering held at MIT. The demonstrators are members of the Jewish Defense League, according to Campus Police.
- President Ronald Reagan calls for a $3.2 billion reduction in federal financial aid to college students.

April 1984
- Chairman of the Faculty Arthur C. Smith organizes a committee to study the history and effects of military and related research at MIT.

September 1984
- A fire blasts through Senior House's Runkle entry on the night of Sept. 4, burning the "do not swear" banner and forcing a last-minute evacuation. Stephen F. Fernandez '86 admits to setting the fire. He is declared persona non grata in the MIT residence system and forced to pay in full for the damage.

November 1984
- Two men rob an MIT student at gunpoint on the Harvard Bridge.

October 1984
- A freshman is attacked on Massachusetts Ave outside of Delta Phi Epsilon at 2:59 a.m. on a Saturday morning. He narrowly escapes serious injury.

November 1984
- Two MacGregor residents admit to burning a problem set in a sink. The burning set off a concealed sprinkler above the sink, automatically calling the Cambridge Fire Department and causing water damage in the dormitory. The students are arrested by Cambridge police and charged with arson. The charges are later reduced on the condition that the students pay $500 to MIT and $990 to the Cambridge Fire Department.

March 1985
- The Gais at MIT lounge is vandalized and stationery is stolen.

CRIME
August 1984
- Barbara Fishman joins the ODSA as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Fishman's job will be to oversee and advise MIT student activities and student government.

September 1984
- Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay instructs all pornographic film policy. The policy states that a pornographic film must first be approved by an Ad Hoc Pornography Screening Committee before being shown in Kresge Auditorium.

September 1984
- The Pornography Screening Committee votes to allow LSC to show the explicit film, "Malech Talmud". "People who are on the Ad Hoc Committee" are going to realize that they have to watch a lot of triple-X rated films.

March 1985
- William McLaughlin, director of the Office of Minority Education (OME), is dismissed by Associate Provost Frank E. Perkins '55. No new director of the OME is appointed.

December 1984
- Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay refuses to allow LSC to use MIT facilities to show a sexually explicit film. Interpretation of the pornographic policy is at issue.

January 1985
- Nineteen students at Freshman Orientation Week. The Committee also announces its intention to establish a committee to study the history and effects of military and related research at MIT.

February 1985
- President Paul E. Gray '54 announces the appointment of Dean of Science John M. Deutch '61 to provost effective July 1. Deutch's aims include a greater emphasis on the humanities.

March 1985
- Over 50 people protest the LSC showing of 'Misery' in the Student Center. Over 1000 people are expected to attend the screening.

April 1985
- The Ad Hoc Pornography Screening Committee votes to allow LSC to show the pornographic movie Bed Talk in Kresge Auditorium.

August 1984
- The Women's Studies Program shows a program of films at 11:06 a.m., with more than 500 people attending.

INSTITUTE
August 1984
- Walter H. Isaacson is named the new president of the Institute. Isaacson has been vice president for research and development since 1982.

September 1984
- President Paul E. Gray '54 announces the promotion of Dean of Science John M. Deutch '61 to provost effective July 1. Deutch's aims include a greater emphasis on the humanities.

July 1985
- MIT presents degrees to over 1700 students at its 119th commencement. Lee A. Berquist '85 receives an honorary degree.

You won't write home, but we will.