



Carl Williams '88 scores a touch against a Tufts fencer. MIT defeated Tufts soundly, 15-12 for the men and 13-3 for the women. Tech photo by David M. Watson

## Thurrow, industrialists debate SDI

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receive so much attention, Steg asserted. "My fond wish is that the program get the political and economic obscurity it deserves. Technically it's very interesting, but . . . I wish it would go back where it should be."

### O'Keefe suspects excess spending

Such a \$2 billion program would be acceptable, said O'Keefe, but a full-blown SDI development program would divert national resources and harm America's world economic standing.

He expressed concern that SDI would grow to include not just research but testing and deployment, citing estimates that deployment could cost up to a trillion dollars. "There's nothing wrong with \$2 billion for basic physics. There is, however, something wrong with fiddling with the ABM treaty or talking about full-scale testing and deployment."

The "tradeoff" between military and commercial investment is eroding the US ability to compete in the world market, and as a result "the comparative advantage that we had has shifted to the newly industrialized nations," he concluded.

### Thurrow sees economic imbalance

"Any society has to have some optimal mix between consumption and investment," Thurrow claimed. Defense spending represents consumption, he continued, so that more defense spending means either less public consumption in other areas or less private consumption — i.e., higher taxes.

But Americans will not be willing to reduce non-military consumption, he predicted, and the resulting federal deficits will drain money which would be "otherwise used for making America a more productive economy in the future." The Soviet Union, on the other hand, is more ready to sacrifice civilian consumption, and hence "you can't spend Russia into bankruptcy," he argued.

Military research also occupies too much of the nation's scientific talent, further hampering the commercial sector, Thurrow continued. "Every society has a number of the brightest and the best, and if you put them all into defense, then obviously you have some problems elsewhere in the economy." He pointed out that President Kennedy included a drive for more education of scientists as part of the Apollo program, yet President Reagan has proposed no such effort.

SDI research is not likely to yield technology that is useful for non-military industry, he contended, pointing out that "of the great inventions affecting the civilian economy, few come out of the military area." He suggested that SDI work would be inappli-

cable to civilian needs because the technical issues of spacecraft design are remote from most non-military engineering. Furthermore, Thurrow claimed that in military research, "a set of attitudes occur that are very counterproductive for the civilian economy."

### Audience questions

A question-and-answer session following the panel focused on how likely it is for military technology to have civilian applications. Thurrow took advantage of the discussion to contrast the American and Japanese economies.

Rich Cowan G challenged Steg to name ten civilian technologies that originated with the military. Steg responded, "You don't need too many . . . one silicon chip will carry you a long way."

A second questioner objected to Steg's listing of various wrong forecasts of scientific progress, intended to cast doubt on pessimistic predictions about SDI. Steg's list concerned problems of man against nature, not prob-

lems in which there was an adversary, the questioner said. "I can predict what man will do . . . I'll take the man's countermeasure any time over nature," replied Steg.

Scott Saleska '86 asked Steg why he opposed discussion of the political and economic aspects of SDI. "The research is to find out whether political and economic debate should happen," Steg answered.

About 100 students and faculty attended the discussion, which was co-sponsored by the MIT Technology and Culture Seminar, the Disarmament Study Group and Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

Tuesday's event was the second of a three-part series on SDI sponsored by the Technology and Culture Seminar. The third part, in February, will examine the initiative's moral and ethical aspects, according to Carl Kayesen, head of the Program in Science, Technology and Society, who moderated the discussion.

## Leaders to meet next year

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would be resolved in two days." In other commentary, Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., said the summit "significantly advanced the cause of world peace," but Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said that nothing has changed "the fact of the nuclear arms race."

The United States will not "pursue cosmetic improvements or an illusory détente," Reagan maintained.

Under a "real peace," Reagan said, the United States and the Soviet Union must understand that "quick fixes do not solve big problems." Instead, the two nations must work to reduce distrust with deeds and not words alone.

The two leaders had devoted five hours to a private, one-on-one session — what Reagan labeled a "fireside summit." Reagan found Gorbachev to be an "energetic defender" of Soviet ideology, as well as an effective speaker and good listener.

He warned, however, that the United States cannot afford to believe that the two different Soviet and American ideologies will ever change.

● **Arms control:** The two leaders called for faster negotiations on a possible 50 percent cut in appropriate categories of the nuclear arsenal. Talks will resume on the elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe. The two nations will also combat the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons.

● **SDI:** Reagan told Gorbachev that SDI is intended to protect all nations from nuclear war. Gorbachev protested that SDI would enable the United States to

put offensive weapons into space. Reagan claimed that SDI research would only lead to non-nuclear defense systems that threaten missiles, not people. He proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union open their laboratories doing research in SDI to each other's inspection.

Reagan said if future research "reveals that SDI is possible, we propose that all nations together replace their strategic ballistic missiles with SDI."

## Smith attacks American pressure on Nicaragua

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tary intervention. Without US support, the Contadora nations are unlikely to sign the treaty, he said, because most of them currently face economic and political difficulties severe enough to make them reluctant to face US disapproval.

"The question here is really 'Why can't the US stop the fighting in Central America?'" Smith said. There are several reasons put forward by the administration, he said, but none of them is sufficient.

The argument that the United States is encouraging military buildup in El Salvador and Honduras to protect American interests in the region is inadequate because US investment in Central America is marginal, Smith said.

The issue of geopolitical security is also minimal, Smith continued. "If we're going to argue about protecting sea lanes and the Panama Canal, we should be talking about invading Cuba, not Nicaragua," he said.

Smith ridiculed the belief that

## Costs of faculty housing an issue

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a political issue?" Gray asked. He expressed concern about political exposure and company relations.

The motion will be debated and voted on at the Dec. 18 faculty meeting.

### Graduate housing

Vernon M. Ingram, professor of biochemistry, raised the issue of graduate housing. He cited both financial and educational benefits of living on campus, such as "the interplay between American and foreign students." Ingram feared for the safety of students who "work late at night . . . and are fearful of going to the outlying and perhaps not very savory neighborhoods of Cambridge and Boston."

The last constructed house cost "\$30-35 thousand dollars a bed," Gray said. It would cost \$60-80 million to double graduate housing, he continued.

Janine Nell G, president of the Graduate Student Council, said that 25 of last year's admitted graduate students indicated on a survey that they would not attend because of the lack of housing or the high cost of living. Since only a third of the students completed the survey, "we may be losing 75 graduate students this year alone," Nell said.

Stanford University has a new housing plan which allows it to offer housing to half its graduate students, Nell said. The plan was funded by a bond issue, gifts, and a rent increase, she said.

Robert A. Sherwood, associate dean for student affairs, said the housing problem could be solved by developing the Simplex Project. "I would like to see more aggressive negotiations," he said.

### New degree

The faculty unanimously

passed a Department of Urban Studies and Planning motion to create a new Master of Science degree in Urban Studies and Planning requiring less study than the currently offered Master of City Planning professional degree.

The new degree would act as a stepping stone for foreign students and would be available to students with one-year residences or those who have lost their funding.

### Faculty housing

The cost of housing in the Boston area is "a matter which can no longer be disregarded by this institution," Provost John M. Deutch '61 said. "If we are going to attract the young faculty, we must find some way to cope with this problem," he added.

A faculty member at New York University would not accept a position at MIT because of the lack of housing, according to Professor Jeremy M. Wolfe.

MIT's second mortgage program for faculty was presented by Treasurer Glenn P. Strehle '58 and Assistant to the Treasurer Susan DeFord. Strehle noted that the demand for on-campus housing has increased at the undergraduate and graduate level. This demand is caused by the lack of reasonably priced rental units and the scarcity of units at any price, he said.

"Young faculty are seeking a home," Strehle said. Housing costs in Boston have increased 65 percent over the past two years and are growing faster than anywhere else in the country, he said. Faculty incomes also are not matching incomes in the private sector, he continued.

MIT's second mortgage plan "increases the price of a house a faculty member could obtain," Strehle said.

The current plan would increase the purchasing power of a faculty member earning \$50,000 by up to 33 percent, DeFord said. A new plan would increase that power by 38.5 percent, and adding a "soft loan" to the package would increase it by 53.9 percent, DeFord added.

The second mortgage plan defers some payments for 15 years, keeping payments below 25 percent of the faculty member's income, DeFord said.

The revisions to the plan would include increasing the size of mortgages to 25 percent of the purchase price or a maximum of \$50,000, reducing first-year payments to \$10 per month, and providing assistance in locating summer jobs, Strehle said.

**ALL WE CAN TELL YOU IS THAT MEN WHO DON'T SMOKE LIVE ABOUT 6 YEARS LONGER...**