MIT pays tribute to McNair
Cheryl McNair reads astronaut's message

By Thomas T. Hung

The MIT community Wednesday mourned the loss of Ronald E. McNair '76, who perished with six others in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger two weeks ago. President Paul E. Gray, speaking in Margaret McNair's name at the press conference, and eight others delivered quiet, emotional eulogies as they reflected on a life cut short.

The text of eulogies delivered by President Gray and Dr. Michael S. Feld '50, page 15.

They spoke of the world's first jazzman in space. He was a man who saw beauty in the smallest things, recalled Shirley A. Jackson '68, the first black woman to earn a PhD at MIT.

At times, Gray's voice cracked as he read his remarks: McNair "set extraordinary standards for himself -- higher than anyone else would dare set for him -- and then met and exceeded those standards. ... We are diminished -- the nation is diminished -- because of that terrible moment in the flight of Challenger.

Margaret McNair's message was undisturbed.

"He was not a dreamer, but a man who made plans. Most of all, he was not invisible, but deeply human, a man who recognized his limits, but dared to go a bit beyond them. "Happy birthday to the edge," said MIT physics professor Michael S. Feld '50, McNair's graduate thesis advisor.

"Hanging it over the edge means setting the most daring personal goal you can possibly hope to reach, and then devoting all your powers of mind and body and spirit to achieving it," said Feld. "Ron believed in being daring -- not, of course, in taking irresponsible risks, but daring to go to the limits of one's abilities and perhaps a little beyond." He quoted the late actor Tony Curtis: "The setting of the fire is still a mystery. But the man who set it whispered 'I'm rich now,' and he had to be rich, because I don't know why anyone would dare set for him -- except to go to the limits of one's abilities and perhaps a little beyond." He quoted the late actor Tony Curtis: "The setting of the fire is still a mystery. But the man who set it whispered 'I'm rich now,' and he had to be rich, because I don't know why anyone would dare set for him -- except to go to the limits of one's abilities and perhaps a little beyond."

The incident is the first report of arson at East Campus.

When asked if an East Campus resident committed the offense, Harvey said, "I would like to think not." East Campus doors are unlocked 24 hours a day. The incident is the first reported case of "harassment of a person based on prejudice of a race," Harvey said.

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MIT looks at food companies

By Ben Z. Stanger

MIT has replaced its present food services operations with a new food management company which would supervise all dining facilities.

A new committee, headed by Director of Housing and Food Services Gene Brammer, will soon begin a search for such a company. The committee must first decide whether a management company is needed and then choose the company, Brammer said. The process should be finished by the end of March, he added.

Food management companies have the advantage of their clients' needs and respond to them, he continued. MIT is forced to make changes in dining services from scratch because it lacks the experience of the management company.

MIT does notCurrently have the resources to ask "what do people really want in food services?" according to Brammer.

The committee, which should be completely chosen sometime next week, will hold a bidder's conference in mid-March, in which interested companies will propose changes for the MIT dining facilities. Companies which have already expressed interest include The Marriott Corporation, which runs the Faculty Dining Room; Club-Sellers Corporation, which operates the on-campus vending machines; ARA Food Services; and The SAGA Company, Brammer said.

After bids have been taken, campus dining units will be

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MIT Engineering goals specified

By Katie Schwartz

Undergraduate engineering education should stress fundamental science, design experience and the humanities, according to a description of the "Goals of Engineering Education" prepared by a faculty committee to guide the Commission on Engineering Undergraduate Education, chaired by Associate Dean of Engineering Jack L. Kentrobrock, last June.

In response to the "Goals of Engineering Education," MIT has identified sexual harassment, he said. "We are continuing the investigation." A new committee, headed by Director of Housing and Food Services Gene Brammer, will soon begin a search for such a company. The committee must first decide whether a management company is needed and then choose the company, Brammer said. The process should be finished by the end of March, he added.

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