Guest Column/Jonathan Gruber
MIT reform provides opportunity for change

MIT structures humanities: only 20 HDUMs to be offered per term.
Could you imagine picking up next week's issue of The Tech and reading "this headline? What would your reaction be? How can they change the requirement so radically? Why didn't I know such big changes were being considered?"

The headline is far from hypothetical; it factually describes change in the HDUM requirement which has been proposed by the Committee on the HASS Requirement. Students have the opportunity to discuss this reform, as well as the others proposed in that committee's interim report, with the committee itself. Only 10-12 students attended this forum. Many students simply were not aware of the changes, and also students felt they didn't have the time, knew that this was simply another interim proposal or felt that they didn't need to attend. It would be interesting to see these students' reactions if these changes were actually enacted, along with other sweeping reforms being considered in the schools of engineering, science, and humanities.

...the students who felt they lacked the time to participate in the divestment decision have now garnered their continued profits and are able to bring about a faster divestment. MIT will eventually divest. The longer the Intransigent takes to divest, the more we seem opposed to political change in South Africa. A confrontational atmosphere has been created between the protesters and the MIT administration. This confrontational atmosphere will not bring about a faster divestment, because it forces the Corporation to take a defensive position. We can win this fight for divestment without making onerous concessions on the part of the Corporation and the administration.

...I think that this reaction is due to our students' misunderstanding of the fact that the students are the ones who should be divesting. The students who cry out for the same benefits that they lacked the time to speak out when the opportunity presented itself. Since the administration met their demands last year, the policy reform process has been in full gear. Committees have already been established in the schools of science, engineering, and business to consider changes to each of these schools. Very broad changes are being considered, in such areas as a fundamental restructuring of the HASS requirement, the elimination of the number of fields in which students can concentrate, and a new institution-wide requirement concerning the context of technology in society. The MIT Senate has created a Committee on the Social Implications of MIT's Role in the South African Economy which is currently formulating ideas for reform of the general institute requirements. The Integrative Education Committee is attempting to design a new curriculum that will integrate the social sciences with the technical disciplines. (Please turn to page 2)

Guest Column/Gretchen Ritter
The Coalition has reason to be mad

It's a shame that the Coalition Against Apartheid has invited such a dissident to appoint one to editor of The Tech. It is true, as Simon L. Garfinkel '88 writes, "Promoters should not escalate fights." The Tech, March 11), that we are agitated at MIT's unwillingness to divest. And it is true also that our anger is fueled by nonviolent tactics. But we will not be "escalating our confrontation" in such ways as The Tech's photographers seem to be focusing upon, neither shall we passively roll over and express our gratitude for symbolic, nonmeaningful changes, as Garfinkel would have us do.

Garfinkel seems to think that students show themselves to be unreasonable when they get angry at certain events. Why should we be angry? In the past year and a half, well over 1000 South Afri cans have been killed. By the police's own figures, they are responsible for two-thirds of these killings. It is quite reasonable to be angry about state-sponsored murders.

Americans corporations, both directly and indirectly, are essential to the continued existence of the regime which represses our fellow citizens. While the American companies involved will not be able to refuse such a role, the current national consensus of the US government and the policies of the South African government make the significance of American corporate support clear. Hence, it is illegal in South Africa to advocate divestment. That American corporations should regulate their continued profits and freedom to operate where they know that these same students' reactions if these changes were actually enacted, along with other sweeping reforms being considered in the schools of engineering, science, and humanities.

...the reason for our anger become more direct and personal when we think about the actions of the MIT Corporation and the administration. They have the ability to expect a corporation to be more ethical in its investments, even at the expense of human consideration. But MIT, supposedly, is an educational institution, and those community concerns and ethical considerations are more meaningful than the capital's, more explicit role. If we cannot expect social responsibility to extend to most central social institutions — churches, universities, corporations — and to the government, then where will it occur? One of the past year's symptoms, considerations of social responsibility have been repeatedly abused by the MIT administration. Internally, community participation in decision-making is being denied to a fairer, D. Reid Weind '41, chairman, University Committee on Shareholder Responsibility [ACSR], presented to me Dec. If the essential points of the ACSR's revised guidelines for investments. So those guidelines had already been roughly formulated before students were officially heard by the ACSR, and before the faculty sat and discussed them. In other words, the participation of faculty and students was made no difference, nor was it intended to be.

Similarly, the Coalition sought an open meeting between students and the faculty. (Please turn to page 9)

Errata
The letter entitled "Quo vadis?" should not include admittance. [The Tech, March 11] contained a typographical error. The phrase "the evil in all places is in the heart of the self-help levels, minority enrollments, and the government-limited discrimination..." was published incorrectly.

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