MIT seeks Star Wars limit

By Joseph J. Killian

The Defense Action Coordinating Committee (SACC) finished a three-day series of rallies and teach-ins Wednesday by delivering a list of proposals to the offices of MIT President Paul E. Gray '54. Gray did not meet with the group, which numbered approximately 25.

The group then briefly protested at the office of Jim Comite, a research associate at the Materials Processing Center. Comite is receiving over $2 million in research funding from SDI, according to SACC.

The list of requests released by SACC included:

- That MIT publicly voice concern over the increasing dependence of scientific research on defense funding, and support legislation limiting the fraction of research supported by the Department of Defense.
- That MIT freeze the amount of federal Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) funding it will accept for campus research.
- That MIT outlaw all fiscal and administrative affiliations with Lincoln Laboratory, and phase out or transfer to MIT all unclassified research being done at Lincoln Laboratory.
- That MIT "legitimize and complete the 'divestment of Diaper Labs' by discontinuing all ties and services not accorded other local high-tech companies, "that MIT address the issue of research funding and academic freedom, and seek out alternative funding sources and programs."
- For all current government research contracts to be made publicly available at MIT libraries.
- An annual forum open to the MIT community in which the faculty and student body may express their concerns to the Corporation.
- That MIT not respond to the petition as of Thursday. "Usually he looks at those when he has the opportunity, and he hasn't had one," said Karen Tenney, administrative assistant to the President.

There is no standard procedure for dealing with petitions at the President's Office, and it is too soon to say if there will be any official response, she said.

By Earl C. Yen

The United States' ability to compete against Japan is the occasion of today's Institute Colloquium titled, "Can we keep up with Japan? Building a World-Class US Economy."

The colloquium's featured speaker, the late Larry Summers, a professor of economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will make a pitch for the professional and economic status of MIT.

Bevin said the United States is losing ground to Japan's increasing technology development. "I'm not saying we're losing the technology race," he said. "I'm saying we're losing the technology vision."

A suitable building would have to meet two conditions, he said: "condo converters can pay twice as much as anyone else," and with MIT, "it should not be readily convertible to a condominium, because "condo converters can pay twice as much as anyone else," and it should already be used for housing, so that there would be no problems with zoning.

"Very few people" of Emerson pressed the motion during the faculty resolution. According to Dickson, but MIT has yet made a final decision on the problem, he said. Dickson said he feels that the selection of the right housing is "the most important thing at MIT."

The Institute may try various approaches to this problem, such as encouraging developers — who tend to concentrate on highly profitable ventures like office buildings — to build more dormitories.

Emerson College will move into Back Bay by the fall, according to Dickson, but it is not likely that MIT will buy any of Emerson's buildings for housing, Dickson said.

A suitable building will have to be available for new campus residents, according to Dickson, but MIT has yet made a final decision on the problem, he said. Dickson said he feels that the selection of the right housing is "the most important thing at MIT."

Dickson would not make public the list of sites under consideration.

"Almost all of them have problems with zoning because the zoning outside of MIT," he said, explaining that Cambridge management poses a development of certain sites, and the Institute does not own some of them. He does not want the sites revealed until "we've prepared to make a pitch for some of them."

Faculty and students, as well as candidates for the eighth Congressional District, spoke against SDI and the increasing levels of defense spending at MIT.

The office will examine the advantages and disadvantages of each site, and will select one by the end of May.

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Dickson said, but there is also a need for more faculty housing because the housing prices in the area make it difficult for new professors to afford homes.

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