Speakers call for more discussion of minorities
By Akbar Merchant
Harriet W. Stowe, an alderman at Brown University, reported that the university interviewed 24 minority student applicants at Brown and found results similar to MIT's 1985 Black Alumni Survey.

Sheridan was a great speaker at the Visiting Committee for Student Affairs' discussion on the recent report by the new law until May 1987, “Someone With a Solution for New Financial Aid for Students,” will not be affected by the new tax law. The Brown Visiting Committee was called on after a racial incident between a black and a white student resulted in an extension of summer leave. The student meetings at Brown's racial environment, she explained. The student meetings “selected a black” as the inadequate number of minority faculty, she said.

The Brown Visiting Committee proposed that each academic department should appoint one member to the Committee on Sheridan.

A proposal for a “pluralistic curriculum” which would include some form of ethical studies was among the recommendations, according to Sheridan. This plan will face strong opposition from the University faculty, she said.

In response to MIT's Black Alumni Survey, Brown's committee suggested a revised code of behavior that makes it clear that students will be “suspended” for racist behavior. Sheridan said.

MIT should create an environment where students feel safe to discuss the issue of racism.

Students discuss minority life
By Desmond O. Davis
MIT tends to isolate its students, especially minorities, said Undergraduate Association President Bryan R. Oliver '97 at the Nov. 3 evening discussion session with the Visiting Committee on Student Affairs in the Memorial Louge. Oliver urged the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs to construct programs to address the isolation experienced by minority students.

The closing session was held in order for the Visiting Committee to hear from the MIT student body and also to help prepare an agenda for future meetings. Students attending the session focused their comments on the racial climate at the Institute.

Sarah R. Thomey '87, UA vice president, emphasized that the recently published Minority Student Issues Group report, “The Racial Climate on the MIT Campus,” lacked a comparison of views held by non-black alumni. The report should have cited the difficulties of adjustment to MIT for blacks as opposed to non-blacks, she felt.

Students also commented that the MSIG's report should have addressed the minorities' view of minorities. Minsoo Bhandari '87, vice chairman of the the Minority Student Issues Committee, asserted, “We will do our best to assimilate [black] and keep them in the system.”

The committee asked the students about black student's attitudes toward independent living groups. Underclass minorities sometimes discourage freshmen from rushing fraternities, several students said.

By Harold A. Stern
Despite President Buchanan's wide-open campaign on behalf of beleaguered Republican candidates, the Democrats regained control of the Senate with a 55-45 margin.

The Democrats also won in four states whose Republican incumbents did not run for re-election: Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, and South Dakota. Ohio, however, was another story. Missouri did not send a Democrat to the Senate in this race, the race that, in Buchanan's words, was “a combative and tumultuous race.”

The Democratic victory was somewhat tainted by Republican gains in gubernatorial elections. The GOP picked up eight seats, and needed only one more to control the majority of state houses.

Low turnout in Massachusetts elections
A lack of close races in an election where the most hotly contested issues were women's rights resulted in a poor turnout in Massachusetts. Turnout was low in most of the state.

Democrats captured all other statewide offices, as incumbent Secretary of State Michael Conolly and Treasurer Robert Q. Traynor were named Attorney General and Auditor, respectively.

By Priyamvada Natarajan
Present composition of the US Senate
State with 2 Democratic senators
State with 1 Democratic senator
State with 2 Republican senators
State with a Senator from each party
State with 2 Democratic Senators
Seats which changed hands
Democratic gain
Republican gain

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