Class of 1990 majors

- Mechanical Engineering
- VI 3 Computer Science
- VI 1 Electrical Engineering
- School of Engineering

- Other Engineering:
  - E, H, X, XII, XXI


Fewer freshmen to major in Course VI

By Robert Adams

Enrollment in the department of electrical engineering and computer science will drop by about nine percent this year, according to the Undergraduate Academic Support Office's survey of freshmen major designations. Thirty percent of the class of 1990—349 students—declared Course VI, down from 33 percent last year.

This will apparently be the first year that Course VI enrollment has fallen below the benchmark of 270 set by the Committee on Undergraduate Academics and Financial Aid. ARA had threatened to restrict admissions to the department if the benchmark was not met.

In addition to the drop in ENGS, there was significantly less interest in the departments of mechanical engineering and aeronautics and astronautics. Overall enrollment in the School of Engineering is down 5.5 percent from last year.

Also, the School of Mathematics has rebounded from a large enrollment decline last year. Twenty-three percent of the freshmen designated a major in the School of Mathematics this year; last year it was 19.7 percent and the year before it was 25 percent.

Almost 3 percent of the Class of 1990 expressed an interest in the School of Management.

Deutch: Institute must balance technical, social understanding

By Ahmed Byboul

MIT needs a "fundamental re-balancing" from a basic scientific education to one involving more social interaction, Provost John M. Deutch '61 said at a forum Tuesday on the Institute's educational agenda.

Proposed changes in the science curriculum include making Calculus 18.01 a prerequisite for Physics I 8.01 because some students lack the necessary mathematical background. Physics II (8.02) might then need to be offered with a pass/fail option in upper years.

Other proposed changes include offering different versions of 8.01 and merging Principles of Chemical Science (3.13) and Introduction to Solid-State Physics (8.01) into a single introductory chemistry course.

Brown, former head of the Department of Biology, "feels strongly" that there should also be a life-sciences requirement. However, if this requirement is approved, another "requirement must be dropped somewhere down the line."

The science departments are seeking a "better balance" between... (Please turn to page 14)

Ph.D. in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, speaks at Tuesday's CUP forum. Seated are Jack L. Knerrbrock (far left), associate dean of engineering, and Deutch, and Dean of the School of Science Gene M. Brown.

Deutch: "The obvious question is how the administrative process is going to work... and take it from there... and in all intellectual areas of the liberal and humanistic system..." The "obviously arbitrary," cap of 10 subjects for each proposed humanities field is needed to prompt instructors to broaden their courses and reduce specialization, Deutch said.

In addition to the HASS requirement currently under review, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program will also study considerations of the Science Distribution requirement.

Deutch said. Current changes in the HASS requirements are only a part of a long-term plan to "rebalance the focus on undergraduate education," Deutch said.

The 18-month old push for reforms seeks to "provide individual fulfillment" for students, convey a more open environment for diverse views in society, and "motivate the individual for a life of learning."

Most students feel that MIT is like an oar by fire that must be endured, Deutch said in response to a question from Undergraduate Academic Support Office President Manual Rodriguez '89 about whether MIT's image had to be changed.

Deutch defended the controversial limiting of HASS subjects to four or five categories. Students "should stop at several different points... and take a look around... at an intellectual map of the liberal and humanistic world."

"Faster-developing reproductive technologies..." (Please turn to page 2)

Smith, Theoharis share Baker teaching award

By Jing Dong

Brian H. Smith, associate professor of biology, has become the 20th professor denied tenure this year. Twenty-one others were also awarded at the ceremony.

The Baker Award honors junior faculty members below the rank of full professor. Each of the winners is presented with a $500 award.

"Raising consciousness" (Please turn to page 2)

Reproductive technologies raise ethical considerations

Feature

By Michael Gajer and Ben Z. Stagner

So-called developing reproductive technologies, which has enabled infertile couples to have their own children and allowed early identification of genetic disorders, has also raised a number of ethical questions. A representative from the Biology Department and MIT religious counselors held a seminar Wednesday to discuss the limits of the biotechnologies, and the morality of its use.

Barbara Eastman said that many ethical problems arise out of the possibilities for learning genetic information about a child before birth. The ability to detect genetic deficiencies in a fetus may lead to disorders later in life or public health policy not to allow parents to select their children if they discovered any of a number of different genetic deficiencies before birth.

"This is a huge issue for today's society."

"The ethical questions that we have not had before..."

The seminar was held as part of the Committee on Educational Policy 1983, 380 sophomores entered... (Please turn to page 2)