Sloan student rejects second Rochester offer

By Martha Wang

Tsunio Sakai G., an employee of the Fuji Photo Company who two weeks ago was re-admitted to the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business Administration, has decided to remain at MIT's Sloan School of Management.

Rochester originally admitted Sakai last spring, but officials of Eastman Kodak Co. pressured the Simon School into cancelling his admission in early August after they learned of his employment with Fuji.

Kodak, which is based in Rochester, NY, has made substantial donations and sends many employees to the school, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. Because many case studies at the business school involve Kodak, and because students at the school have access to Kodak databases, officials at the company feared Sakai would be compromised in his information. Kodak had said it would not support students who work for some of its employees because of Sakai's presence in the classroom, according to The Chronicle.

Sakai previously worked in Fuji's new products division. Before Sakai received notification of the cancelled admission, the Simon School arranged for Sakai to attend Sloan. Dean Paul McAvoy of the Simon School called Dean Lester C. Thurow of MIT to explain the situation, and Thurow explained the Simon School's decision to MIT.

The letter re-enrolling Sakai offered to pay for his moving costs if he chose to attend Rochester. Although Sakai is staying at MIT, he said he was "very pleased" about the re-admission.

Sakai's situation is an unusual example of how corporations and business schools are linked. "I don't know much about American society. Many of my American friends say it's incredible that any private company gives pressure to a university to make an administrative decision. In Japan, there is no case like this," Sakai said.

Sakai said he does not regard this case as typical of America. "This is only one private company's program, not all of America's program. I can't judge American society by just this case. I don't judge. I can't judge."

Both publications produced their first issues at the end of the last term, and The Thistle circulated its second issue last Thursday.

The Thistle is an "alternative news collective."

"There was no newspaper on campus that was willing to take up the issues that we [the founders of The Thistle] were interested in," Press explained. He said he was dismayed, for example, that there wasn't much investigation of such issues as the firing of Mary O. Hope, former assistant dean for student affairs; MIT's ties to off-campus research institutions like the Whitney Institute; or issues pertaining to the simpleminded development. "No one was really doing it in the press," he said.

Press also expressed frustration about writing through The Tech. He said The Tech classified certain contributions from him and others as opinion pieces and not as news stories because of perceived political bias.

"If we really wanted to educate the people on campus we had to have some way to communicate," he said.

Press and others first talked about setting up the paper in the fall of 1989, he said, after the Coalition Against Apartheid "Phased out the paper."