MIT considers P/F changes
Freshmen could receive second term grades

By Irene Koo
The Committee on the Freshmen Program, chairing a meeting reviewing second-term freshman pass/fail grades among a new system that would allow students to take a grade/no-grade subject per semester starting in the second term of their first year.

The recommendation appears in a draft of a report the committee has been presenting to the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. Professor Kenneth R. Mealing, chair of the CUPP, said that while he acknowledges problems in second-term pass/fail, he believes it should be kept. The chair wants to provide the freshmen with the chance to take more of a flexible first-year program as well as abuses of the present system.

Kaz also argued that the new credit/no-credit option would be under-utilized, as upperclassmen would be reluctant to use it for their departmental courses.

The draft also advocates that students not be expected to complete all of their core science subjects during their first year. The report specifically recommends, however, that the mathematics requirement, two science/ math, and two HASS subjects be completed in the first year.

Major adjustment was considered during first semester
The CFPF draft states that because freshmen the major adjustment to MIT is accomplished during the first semester, and many of the initial problems of transition and adjustment have decreased.

But Katz, who wrote a dissent to the report, said that most freshmen faced two terms to make the transition into life at MIT — the first term to make the academic adjustment and the second term to complete the emotional adjustment.

The CFPF draft argues that some students express frustration with second term pass/fail because there was a transitional period.

Summer rents rise sharply
By Andrew L. Fish
The MIT Housing Office has increased summer rents by an average of 42 percent in undergraduate dormitories. The increases, which range from 26.6 percent to 52.7 percent on Memorial Drive to 33.7 percent for Random Hall, were needed because of increased operating expenses, mostly relating to the operation of MIT's new telephone system and added features.

According to Carl A. Seagren, budget officer of the Housing Office.

The new phone system will cost the Housing Office an additional $300,000 a year, Seagren said. If the additional revenue was generated solely during the academic year, rents would have been increased by 9 percent instead they went up only 3.7 percent.

Seagren said.

Magazine hypothesized that summer rents had been historically lower because the housing system had been understaffed during that period. But now facilities are "up to snuff," he said. "The Housing Office is now having difficulty finding space for all students and conference attendees who desire summer housing, and it's hard to get out of the subsidy business," Magazine explained.

Magazine and Seagren both felt that the higher rents were more consistent with rates incurred during the summer months.

Seagren noted that the Housing Office has been "keeping rates steady," with increases of 2.8 percent in 1986, 2.1 percent in 1987, and 2.2 percent over the last three years.

The University will discuss the rent increase at its April 14 meeting.

By Michael Cofer
The Daedalus Project human-powered flight team made its first overland test flights yesterday in Heraklion, Greece, project spokesman Brian Duff reported by telephone yesterday afternoon.

The 35-member crew of the Greek operations phase were all assembled on the island of Crete by the start of this week.

New telephone system close to completion
By Sunjay Masandhar
MIT's new telephone switching system, which will expand the capabilities and increased number of lines — will completely replace the present one by the end of the year, according to Director of Telecommunications Systems Morton Berlin.

New services on the AT&T SPRINT system may include streamlined calling, forwarding, optional use of a centralized message center for institute extensions, and call waiting.

The fiber-optic cables allowing remote students attending the campus to be easily connected...

Happy April Fool's Day!