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Breakdown of sophomore majors

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1988 Coop rebate is 7.8 percent
By Sophia Wang

The annual Coop patronage rebate for the fiscal year 1988 was 7.8 percent, James A. Argeson, president of the Coop, announced recently. This means a significant drop from last year's 10 percent.

The low rebate was due primarily to altered buying habits of the Boston community, said Darian Hendricks '89, MIT student manager of the Coop Board of Directors. "You have to remember that the rebate comes from member and non-member purchases," Hendricks said.

According to the Annual Report of the Harvard Cooperative Society, the net earnings of the six Coop stores for 1987 were $396,180. But in 1984 earnings amounted to only $519,142.

Hendricks stressed that the lower rebate percentage was not due to poor sales for the Coop. "Sales at the stores that the entire retailing business went through a slow period in 1987-88."

Another factor influencing the low rebate was the labor shortage which affected the entire Boston area, Hendricks said. Due to the high unemployment rate, local businesses had to advertise starting salaries of close to $600 an hour. He added, "This competition was reflected with labor expenses totaling $8,166,245 in 1987 and $8,515,874 in 1988, the report noted.

Keeping workers on the job for extended periods of time is also difficult to manage," Hendricks said. Recently, different incentives have been offered to workers and some have been able to work for longer than one month, he added. Thus, the labor shortage and the operating costs of the Coop.

A final factor, Hendricks noted, was the startup expenses for the new MIT Coop at Kendall Square. "This year's figure is a little higher than last year," he said.

"I am not sure if the board, when it was planning the new Coop, could have predicted the current labor situation in Boston," Hendricks said.

Hendricks admitted to having exercised considerable restraint during recent years, thus when the lower rate was announced it took many by surprise. Hendricks said, "You have to remember that just a few years ago the rebate was around 7.8 percent," he added.

Hendricks felt that current student concern over the lower rebate is a good thing. "Students have a right to know what goes on, since they, as members, are stockholders," he said.

The 1.7 percent drop in the Coop's annual rebate is due to lower earnings.

Collegium probes issues of world democracy
By Nirj S. Dasgupta

Today, the Collegium is releasing a dramatic upsurge in democratic governments and respect for democratic values, declared Polit- cal Consultant Pake-kh Chung of the South Korea's embassy to the United States. Chung spoke at a colloquium on "The State of De-mocracy in 1988" sponsored by the MIT Republican Club last Wednesday night.

The colloquium brought together representatives of five nations which are in varying stages of democratic development. Be- sides Chung, the panelists included officials from Pakistan, Chile, Israel, and Canada.

While acknowledging that South Korea had traveled a rocky road to democracy, Chung asserted that democratic values had be- come firmly entrenched. "Those outside the mainstream in Korea who join the battle in building democracy," Chung cited popular support for the Seoul Olympics as an example of the people's new respect for the government.

Moreover, South Korea's recent move toward reconciliation with the North are a sign of the "con- fidence of a government with legitimate" invested in it by demo- cratic election, Chung said.

As in Korea, recent develop-
ments have moved Chile closer to democracy. But while South Korea had no previ- ous democratic tradition, Chile had a long succession of elected democratic governments — broken fifteen years ago with the military over- throw of President Salvador Allende, a Marxist.

Patricia Torres, Chilean consul general in Washington, explained Allende's overthrow as a reaction to fears that the leftist govern- ment would impose a totalitarian state, and to the volatility of Chilean politics in the three decades before. He also alluded to some foreign interference — from the Soviet Union and Cuba, and the United States — but did not elaborate.

Torres saw the plebiscite that rejected the military junta headed by General Augusto Pinochet as the culmination of an eight-year struggle for democracy.

According to Torres, the government in 1980 began that transition by proposing a new constitution.

The transition was sped up by street demonstrations sparked by the 1982 recession, Torres said.

The present regime is committed to competitive elec- tions and is being invested in by its public. "Moral and political education are linked with democracy," as Torres put it.

The Department of Biology at- tended 26 more students than last year. Graham Walter, under- graduate officer in Biology, at- tributed some of the increase to the exchange students. "We have a total of 380 sophomores this year," he said.

According to figures supplied by the Office of Minority Education and the MIT/Wellesley Exchange Office "report to the Provost," as Sherwood proposed.

The Career and Placement Office has not been in- corporated, as he suggested. Sherwood wanted to satisfy the "50 percent demand of graduate students for on-campus housing," as well as create a "fraternity row on MIT's campus" to move inde- pendent living groups from Bos- ton. Neither of these goals are close to realization, with the construc- tion of some additional graduate housing just underway.

Alaska Kappa Alpha and Alpha Delta at Alpha, the black social fraternity at MIT, have not been incorporated into the IFC sys- tem for the past two years.

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