Faculty to vote on P/F on Wednesday

By Annabelle Boyd

On Wednesday, the faculty will hold a special meeting to con- clude on the Undergraduate Program’s motion concerning freshman pass/no-credit grading. In the wake of discussion generated at the April 19 faculty meeting, two more amendments have been proposed to the CUP motion.

Professor of Architecture Leon B. Groisser ’48 has proposed an amendment to the retention of the current two-semester pass/no-credit system, with the exception of one year. Faculty members who obtain at least a C grade would be able to earn a B grade, and the associated credit would be part of their permanent record. Groisser also submitted an amendment which calls for the retention of the current two-semester pass/no-credit system, with the exception of one year. Faculty members who obtain at least a C grade would be able to earn a B grade, and the associated credit would be part of their permanent record.

Harold Abelson PhD ’73, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, submitted an amendment which states: “Each undergraduate should have the option to... alter their record.”

According to Abelson, when the new system is in place, he plans to add a second-term freshman to his class, which states: “Each undergraduate should have the option to... alter their record.”

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By Paul A. M. Moore

A two-issues of fire theft from the MIT armory as in many months had Campus Police to restrict the student to a pass/fail and range rifles and to review security at the armory.

On April 11, two .22 target pistols were stolen immediately after the first meeting of a physical education class, according to Pat Melaragno, range master and chief of the police department. The pistols were new and valued at about $300 apiece, he said.

The earlier theft, in which a .22 caliber target rifle and an air rifle were taken, took place on March 3 shortly before an inter-collegiate shooting tournament. The weapons belonged to the US Military Academy rifle team, and were valued at $1500 and $900, respectively.

For nearly two weeks after the pistol theft, the Campus Police placed a moratorium on weapons practice at the CUP. Under the second option, second-term freshmen would have been allowed to take four subjects on a pass/no-credit basis; but, in subsequent years, these students could take at most three pass/no-credit subjects, with some restrictions.

“Without any doubt, a pass/no-credit remains true and necessary,” Abelson said. “The CUP motion would allow students to use this option for at most one term, then return to the current system.”

Groisser said he believes the basic idea behind pass/no-credit remains true and necessary. “The (CUP) motion should fix the flaws in the past/fail system without diminishing it,” he said.

In addition to the Abelson and Groisser amendments, the faculty would also vote on an amendment by Professors Marc A. Kantor and Robert J. Birgenheier which was on the April 19 agenda, but was not given back because the meeting ran over time. The Kantor/Birgenheier amendment gives students two options: on when to switch to grades. If a student wishes to switch to grades, the CUP amendments “aren’t impacting on any- one severely,” Melaragno said.

One of the security changes is likely to involve moving the weapons safe: out of the ranges and into the rangemaster’s office, which will be locked and alarmed. Another proposal would place motion sensors across the firing line in each range. The alarms would be set to trigger corresponding alerts in the Campus Police office if activated.

By Niraj S. Densi

Before starting his talk yesterday on developments in cold fusion claims, Associate Professor Ronald G. Ballinger SM ’82 warned the audience that there would be a quiz on the subject afterwards. But he told them not to worry because “no one can tell if you’re wrong.”

That is the problem with the claims made by University of Utah researchers to have produced nuclear fusion at room temperature. The researchers—Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann—announced they had made a breakthrough in the decades-long quest for fusion energy at a press conference last month.

But since then, Pons and Fleischmann have failed to pro- vide the scientific community with adequate information about their experiment, Ballinger said. He charged that the University of Utah and others are stampeding the scientific review process in the rush to obtain support for the Pons/Fleischmann method.

Ballinger’s comments came the day after he testified before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Earlier in the day, witnesses had called on Congress to appropriate $35 mil- lion to commercialize the pur- ported discovery.

University of Utah President Chase Peterson and productivity specialist Ira C. Magaziner joined Pons and Fleischmann in praising congressmen to fund work on “table-top” fusion, say (Please turn to page 2)