New Class of 1994 Ring Features the Natural Beaver

simple," said ring committee member Ann Chen '94.

The large 1994 on the class side of the ring is displayed on the pages of an open book. "The idea behind the book was to commemorate [former Dean of Undergraduate Education Margaret L.A. MacVicer's] death, who founded the UROP program here. The ribbon bookmark in the pages of the book has the three symbols of the UROP program on it," also said Chung. A frontal view of the Great Dome was chosen over the side view, which was used last year, so that "the trees that line Killian Court could be included," Chung added.

For the traditional seal side, "we chose a straight 'MIT' instead of a curved 'MIT'," because we thought it looked better aesthetically. This, however, was a close vote," said committee member Anne Chen '94. "MIT "MEN'S AND WOMEN'S," which is on our school motto, is written on a scroll whose ends roll into a nine and a seven, and those that did usually also bought a traditional ring," Babiec said.

Most will buy

Student opinion on the ring was mixed. M. Lily Datta '94 was pleased with the committee's design. "I think they did a really good job with it — the detailed percent of our class really unique. I especially like the hidden MIT in the beaver's fur," she commented. Peter K. Verpuskas '94 agreed with Datta. "The design is great — especially the reference to MIT through the fire hose. All things considered, I'm really impressed with the job that the ring committee did," he said.

"It's okay. It's a beaver ... I'm going to buy one because it's one of those things you've just got to have," said Phillip S. Cho '94. Some students, like Frank C. Popp '94, were unhappy with this year's ring. "This year's beaver looks wimpy. It has MIT carved into its posterior, and it is staring blankly into space. Last year's beaver was bad-ass; I'm very disappointed with this year's," he said.

Another complaint was the price of the ring. "I'm not going to buy a ring ... it's too expensive. I'd rather buy 30 CDs," commented Mohammed A. Hinsaw 94.

Despite these mixed feelings, the class ring is expected to sell well. "Usually less than 50% of the class shows up for the ring premiere. This year, well over 50% — more than 700 people — stopped by," said Chen.

"By graduation, 90 percent of the Class of 1994 will have purchased a class ring. Seventy to 75 percent of the class will buy one because it's one of those things you've just got to have," Babiec said.

The ideas for the new design were taken from surveys and suggestion sheets the committee put out in Lobby 7 last fall. The committee then voted upon the new design elements. "We required a 60% majority for an idea to pass, but most decisions for the design ended up being unanimous," said Babiec. The design of the traditional ring was finalized by the committee on December 12.

Balfour gets account

Balfour was chosen over Jostens for the design account because it offered a better package deal. "If you compare the cheapest Jostens graduate ring, which costs $375, you can see that Balfour, whose most expensive ring is $390, is the better deal," Babiec said. He also mentioned that the account is not particularly lucrative for Balfour, but is highly sought after by many ring companies because it is considered a "prestige account."

Past years have shown that the traditional ring is far more popular than the dinner or women's fission ring. "No more than 60 people a year have bought the dinner ring, and those that did usually also bought a traditional ring," Babiec said.

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