MIT First in Engineering

By Reuven M. Lerner

For the third year in a row, MIT has been named the top engineering school in the U.S. News and World Report.

The annual survey called the Departments of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering the "best in their fields, and placed MIT's biomedical and civil engineering programs among the top five.

Graduate programs in economics, political science, and psychology were also ranked in the top 15 in the magazine's "first ranking of liberal arts programs.

Department heads were generally happy to hear that their programs were ranked so highly. "I think it's well-deserved," said Earl M. Murman, head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. "We've been ranked first for several years, and we're very happy to still be ranked first."

"It's the people in the department, and just the faculty, but the students," Murman said, adding that "students are actually involved in our research."

Nan Pye She '95, head of the mechanical engineering department, felt similarly. "The reason we're the best is because we have the best people," she said. "And that's what matters."

"We did pretty well" said Suzanne D. Berger, head of the Department of Political Science. "We've had a mixed reaction to our department from students."

"Pretty well, we're really a very small department," she said. "But getting political science departments at other schools have two or three times as many faculty members."

Still, she added, "I think we're better than that.

Peter Tenen '84, head of the economics department, was very pleased with the standing, saying "I think it's only fair, because we've been working very hard."

But Berger felt that MIT's department did worse than some others because "in particular strengths are somewhat different from strengths in most conventional political science departments," including international relations and white policy.

Department heads expressed different opinions on the importance of the U.S. News ranking. Berger said she puts "very little" stock in the rankings, but She and Murman said they were fair assessments of the department's status.

"U.S. News and World Report is not an academic journal, and these things should not be taken very seriously," said Tenen, head of the economics department. But, he added, "more serious rankings have also placed us number one, and frankly, it's always nice to be number one, no matter how disreputable the source."

The fact that MIT is top-ranked "is very important, because an average student contemplating going into graduate school certainly considers this ranking," She said.

Berger complained that while U.S. News has claimed to have asked department heads for evaluations of other schools, "nobody ever called me. I certainly would have offered to help as much as we can."

"We've been ranked first for several years, and we did a damn good job dealing with it."

"I'm tempted to let the elections stand passed by a vote of 10-5-0."

"We've been notifying people for weeks through e-mail. The last time we had a meeting, we notified representatives through our USA mail list, and over 76 people showed," Mahoney said.

But David W. Hogg '92 countered, "I support this because there are many people who read the Thistle who are disenfranchised with the U.A. Advertising in the Thistle would reach these people." The proposal was voted down, 1-2-6-4.

Athletic Director to Resign

Flippin, from Page 1

MIT's athletic facilities, he said. Planned projects include the new indoor Athletic Facility, which will include a new swimming pool, an expansion of the MIT boathouse, and improvements to the outdoor facilities.

Before he came to MIT, Flippin had served as head of Princeton University's athletics department for nearly seven years. He has served

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MIT Fails to Elect New Executive Board

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We're going to send out letters to consider appropriate penalties, because it's really disenchanted with the system," she said, "and it's a total insult that our election was not fair. Some candidates say, 'I don't care,' said ASA Secretary Tom Mahoney added.

UA Floor Leader Hans C. Godfrey '93 hopes that ASA will do more than they have in the past. "They need to denucleate the preface in which they do things," he said. "I hope active people get involved, because the ASA needs to start doing more." Godfrey suggested that ASA could accomplish more with regular office hours and a more active use of their powers.

There are currently only candidates for three of the five ASA Executive Board positions — one for president, two for treasurer, and one for school council president, Mahoney said. There were no candidates for the offices of undergraduate member at large or graduate member at large.

UAC Decides to Let Elections Stand Despite Ballot Theft

Wellesley, from Page 1

The woman is currently living in the infirmary, The Wellesley News reported.

Gliss also said the woman told her she went home on March 5, under the recommendation of Kelly Campbell, dean of students. The student agreed to sign a waiver releasing Wellesley from legal responsibility for the crimes if her daughter were allowed to return to campus. Gliss also said she was not sure if her daughter had given a roommate.

The woman is currently living off-campus. Campbell said this administrative decision was made due to inability to protect the student, constitutional tunnel of campus, and concern over the safety of other students.

Gliss also said the woman's father agreed to sign a waiver releasing Wellesley from any liability for the crimes if his daughter were allowed to return to campus. Campbell told the woman's father that his daughter could not return to campus. Campbell said this administrative decision was made due to inability to protect the student, constitutional tunnel of campus, and concern over the safety of other students.

"It's impossible for a commission like ours to regulate to perfection. Because of the people who stole the ballot box, we cannot have a perfect election this year," Chitaley said.

"No perfect election this year"

"It's a total insult that our election was not fair. Some candidates campaigned, others didn't." How do we know fewer people will come out to vote?"

Presidential candidate Stephen A. Johnson '93 said that "it's a matter that fewer people will vote. We may get more people who don't care. But this is not a government of people who care. This should be a governmenet of all people, of people who don't care. I don't care. I'm apathetic."

David J. Kessler '94, a candidate for vice president, proposed weight- voting casts in Lobby 7 more heavily than those cast on Wednesday, but retracted the proposal after some debate.

"Everyone should vote to support him." The motion to let the elections stand passed by a vote of 10-5-0.

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