Union Protests MIT Decision

By Garlen C. Leung

The MIT Real Estate Office’s rehabilitation of the former Ford/Polaroid Building has resulted in a dispute with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local No. 48. The union is protesting the office’s decision to hire a non-union general contractor for the renovation of the building, which is located at 464 Memorial Drive.

MIT awarded the $13 million contract to Erland Construction, a non-union contractor, in July. The list of potential contractors had previously been narrowed down to Beacon Construction, Turner Construction, and Erland. Beacon and Turner are both union contractors.

The main problem with Erland Construction is that they refuse to sign a union agreement, said Mark Erlich, Carpenters Local 40 Business Manager and Financial Secretary.

Union picketing MIT

Every morning since the beginning of classes, two or three union members have held picket lines protesting MIT’s decision to picketers across from the Institute’s 77 Massachusetts Ave. entrance.

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MIT Hillel Dedicates New Sukkah

By Brian Rosenberg

MIT Hillel dedicated a new sukkah Sunday after more than two years of design, planning, and construction. The sukkah, a booth used in celebrating the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot, was designed and built entirely by students.

"This is a wonderful day for the entire community," said Phillip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex, which housed the project on the outside Walker Memorial for the new sukkah.

Hillel President Michelle Greener ’94 was extremely pleased with the sukakah. "It’s really fabulous, and I’m glad it got done on time. I hope it becomes a lasting part of the community and stays around longer than anyone who built it," she said.

"This sukkah will remind the Jewish students and the Jews here who can, and do, contribute to the quality of life at MIT," said Walsh.

Made entirely of wood, the new sukkah replaces an aluminum and canvas structure that had been in use for more than 10 years. Hillel members said that shevitz explained that he expected to construct a new sukkah two days before Sukkot and had to be hastily rebuilt. Even after being reinforced, the structure was not very stable, he said.

Pressure to construct a new sukkah increased last year after the aluminum frame of the old sukkah was accidentally thrown away. "The old structure was put in the dumpsters, and the aluminum was stolen," said Walsh.

The frame had been stored in a room adjoining the sukkah.

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Survey Reveals Honesty Attitudes

By Sarah Y. Keightley

The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office has released the results of last spring’s academic dishonesty survey in time for Wednesday’s colloquium, “Success and/or Honesty: In Here, Out There.” The Colloquium Committee was spurred to create the survey by the increased focus on cheating at MIT.

The survey results did not reveal any "real surprises" to the administration, said Alberto G. Lipson, associate dean for research.

The survey is comprised of three parts: one for undergraduates, one for faculty, and one for graduate teaching assistants. The UAAC has not compiled the data from the TA survey yet.

(See the enclosed supplement for tabulated survey data and comments from completed surveys.)

In the survey, 91 percent of students and 96 percent of faculty agreed that the definition of cheating is clear. MIT and the American public, like the students at MIT did. People can’t do something if they don’t know [the family] exists," Green said.

The long-term goals of Oxfam are to provide seeds, tools, and other farming necessities to the refugees. Oxfam also plans to construct schools in famine-affected areas and the hunger refugees in famine-struck Somalia. In a three-day fundraiser last week, they collected $10,000 for Oxfam America, a famine relief organization.

The Lobby 1 fundraising booth featured photographs of the suffering Somali children taken by Janet Green, the Director of Education and Outreach for the Oxfam Boston office.

The money will be spent directly on food and supplies, without any being used for administrative or overhead costs. The food is purchased in Kenya, then sent to Somalia by boat.

"It is important to raise funds which directly go to the Somali people, and to raise consciousness in the American public, like the students at MIT did. People can’t do something if they don’t know [the famine] exists," Green said.

Students Raise Funds For Somali Refugees

By Hyun Seo Kim

The African Students’ Association and the Hunger Action Group recently joined the international effort to send food and supplies to the war refugees in famine-struck Somalia. In a three-day fundraiser last week, they collected $10,000 for Oxfam America, a famine relief organization.

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