October 30, 1992

OPINION

Vote 'Yes' on All Four Ballot Questions

By Matthew H. Hersh, David A. Mattz, and Brian Rosenberg

Massachusetts voters face four ballot questions this Tuesday. One of these questions has become must-ask after a little reinterpre-
tation between the advocates and opponents of the measure. A "yes" vote serves as an added endorsement of the compromise, on the measure to force corporations to make certain to tax records public each year.

Here are The Tech’s recommen-
dations on the other three questions:

Question 1: This extremely controversial proposal aims to reduce wasteful packaging through a number of new require-
ments. Packagers have a choice of reducing overall packaging, using recyclable material, using previously recycled materials, or using recyclable materials. The argument in favor is obvious: reducing waste is in the interest of everyone in the long run.

What is necessary to reach the arguments against this particular proposal. Despite the claims of the advertising blitz sponsored by the packaging industry, the "benignancy" this law will set up to oversee recycling will not cause businesses to stagnate in Massachusetts. Similar fears drove the campaign against the 1982 Bottle Bill, and passage of that question did not create the dangers of production on the shelves, opponents had predicted. The Bay State is too valuable a market for companies to simply abandon because of a new law.

The allowances for reasonable exceptions — in the case of safety packaging or FDA requirements, for example — are gen-
erous and eliminate most of the worries that business will be no longer feasible. We encourage you to read the Recycling Act for yourself. It is an important step toward Massachusetts taking the lead in environmental protection nationwide, and we urge you to vote "yes" on Question 3.

Question 4: This proposal would contribute to the state Environmental Challenge Fund by taxing people, businesses, and other organizations possessing 50,000 pounds or more of various petroleum products and toxic chemicals. Money in the fund can be appropriated by the legislature to assess and clean up sites that have or may be contaminated by oil or haz-
ardous materials. We believe that companies must be held responsible for the proper use and disposal of those materials, but remain concerned about the legislature’s proper appropra-
tion of the money collected. Subject to this concern, we support a "yes" vote on Question 4.

The Tech began an editorial series on Proposition 3 in September titled "If Prop 3 passes ..." we urged our readers to vote for it. Our position on that ballot question is unchanged. We urge you to vote "yes" on Question 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UMOC Policy Against Controversy Is Wrong

I was absolutely astonished when I turned to my application for run for "Urgent Man on Campus" and found out that I was not allowed to name "Parked Parenthood" as my charity. Why not Planned Parenthood?

I was told that Alpha Phi Omega had decided that charities that were too controvers-
ial would not be accepted on UMOC applica-
tions. The charities that were too extreme also included the American Civil Liberties Union. Perhaps these organizations are so far out on the fringes of decent society that Alpha Phi Omega would not wish to sell its good name by associating with them. Or perhaps Alpha Phi Omega is try-
ing to guide the proceeds of UMOC to certain charities, but I am not able to see how this is being done.

I can only wonder what kind of political agendas APA is trying to enforce here. Rasa A. Lipsett '93

UMOC Policy

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editor, and opinion editor. Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 25, MIT Greece, Cambridge, MA 02319, or by interdepartmental mail to Route Waverly in the Science Center. All format must be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters to the editor must be in 12-point Times New Roman. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anony-

mously. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.