MIT Appeals Legal Definition and Standards
Petition Focuses on Legal Definitions and Standards

By Sarah A. Kelgheley

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

The Institute violated the Sherman Antitrust Act when it discussed financial aid packages with other universities.

In September, Judge Louis C. Bechtle found that MIT violated antitrust rules by discussing financial aid packages with other colleges and universities in the Ivy Overlap Group to set need-based aid levels. The much-anticipated trial resulted in a government investigation that lasted almost three years. The Overlap Group, which included MIT, the Ivy League schools, and a number of other universities, had calculated financial aid packages for prospective students every year. The schools compared the awards they had calculated for the same applicants, and adjusted their packages to make them similar or identical. This allowed students to choose institutions without regard to cost, the measurement and control, who spread limited financial aid resources further by avoiding expensive bidding wars over particular students.

The government accused MIT and the Ivy League schools of pricesfixing. Only MIT decided to challenge the suit, insisting that it had not engaged in antitrust activity. But in September, Bechtle ruled that the Overlap Group’s aid decisions did constitute price-fixing, were detrimental to competition, and were an illegal restraint of trade.

Reasons for appeal

Thane Scott, one of MIT’s lawyers in the case, said the appeal, filed in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, where the case was heard, was based on two issues. “First, the judge wrongly decided that cooperative financial aid arrangements are commercial activities,” he said. In the case, MIT asserted that its distribution of financial aid is not commerce but a charitable activity by a non-profit corporation, and thus should not be subject to antitrust legislation.

“Second, in deciding whether the Overlap agreements were legal under the Sherman Act, the judge applied the wrong standard,” Scott said. “He ignored the economic test that established that Overlap was not engaged in for financial reasons by MIT.” During the trial, MIT argued that Overlap meetings allowed member universities to continue offering need-blind admission to students.

In his decision, Bechtle found that schools could maintain need-blind admissions without Overlap if they were willing to restrict their budgetary priorities, but Stanley G. Hudson, associate director and executive officer of financial aid at MIT, disagreed.

“Our argument is that we have limited financial aid resources,” Hudson said. “We’re making sure these resources are put in the hands of the people who really need them.”

Student Robbed on Harvard Bridge

By Brian Rosenberg

Brian J. Young ’96 was robbed of $70 at gunpoint on the Harvard Bridge at around 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. The suspect, described as a stocky 6-foot black man, demanded money from Young, gave him the change, then adjusted his packages to make them similar or identical. This allowed students to choose

by the campus police, the suspect approached the victim, brandished a handgun, and demanded money. The victim gave him the change, then reported the incident to the campus police, who notified the state police. State police officials said the suspect was last seen running away, but added that witnesses who got away initially are seldom caught later.

On Sunday, Campus Police Chief Anna P. Glavin emphasized that the Harvard Bridge is not a safe area. “It’s an area that we patrol, because it’s a little far-faring from our legal jurisdiction. The continuing message to students simply has to be that they must be extremely careful, especially during these hours of darkness,” she said. “The bridge has a reputation for not being safe, especially at night, and that’s continuing.”

Young could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The robbery is the latest in a series of violent incidents that began with the murder of Yves K. Raustein ’94 in mid-September. Since then, there have been over half a dozen robberies, attempted in robberies and assaults on Vassar Street, Allston Street, and Memorial Drive.

Cathedral Hack Planned Since June

By Deena S. Drisby

Cathedral hack

Feature

Planning for the hack began in June, and construction of the various components of the hack lasted for about one month. Most hackers are involved with the transformation contributed by eight and 10 hours a day on the weekends and a few extra hours during the work on the project.

In early October, the hackers learned of plans by Brian Egan ’92 and Mike J. Borer ’92 to get married in Lobby 7 on Halloween. The couple’s pagan wedding ceremony took place Sunday, Nov. 1, at 12:00 am.

Simulated stained glass

Perhaps the most striking feature of the cathedral was the simulated stained glass in the dome and on the windows. The window panels, which measured 10 feet by 25 feet, were made of cellulose, steel lac, and plastic backing and were assembled in large rooms around the Institute. “They are theoretically waterproof, but we were very glad it didn’t rain too bad or anything like that,” according to Sinter Gosh, who was in charge of the windows.

Most students felt that Raustein’s murder was a highly unusual event which does not warrant any extra precautions. “You can expect to hear it happen again ever. It didn’t affect me at all,” said William G. Zeng ’94.

“I don’t feel threatened. I think the campus is a safe place. I haven’t changed a thing.” said Daniel D. Hurd ’95.

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Two months after the murder of Yves K. Raustein ’94, most students who use the almost campus at night still do so. However, students are using a Safe Sites, the campus safety network, far more than ever before.

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The Weather

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Tonight: Partly cloudy, 33°F (1°C)
Wednesday: Overcast, 50°F (10°C)

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