Six MacVicar Fellows Announced

By Nicole A. Sherry

Six professors were appointed as MacVicar Faculty Fellows for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education last Friday.

The program was established last year in honor of Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65, MIT's first dean of undergraduate education. The appointments were announced by President Charles M. Vest and Provost Peter Smith at a MacVicar Fellows reception and luncheon on Feb. 5.

This year's recipients were Thomas J. Allen Jr. PhD '66 of the political science department, James H. Williams Jr. '67 of the mechanical engineering department, Tresie Taylor of the literature section, James H. Williams Jr. '67 of the mechanical engineering department, and August F. Wit of the materials science and engineering department.

"The appointment will remind me of the goal of Margaret MacVicar," Vest said. "It's changed a lot since I wrote my thesis, but I think that we're on track."

By Deena Disraelly

A bill proposed by two state officials could cost MIT billions of dollars in municipal taxes.

State Sen. Robert Skinner, who represents eastern Cambridge, and State Rep. John McDonough introduced a bill that would impose a one-half percent tax on the value of currently tax-exempt land belonging to nonprofit institutions, such as private schools and hospitals.

MIT and Harvandyk University would be the hardest hit institutions in the city. MIT owns 44 percent of tax-exempt land in Cambridge.

The bill, which represents about 5 percent of the entire city, would increase the city's $132 million tax base by $5 million. MIT and Harvard would have more than 20 percent of the tax base in the city.

"I don't think this is going to hurt MIT's ability to raise money," said MIT Chancellor Jerome Wiesner. "This would increase the tax base by a relatively small amount and not affect the bottom line much."

The proposed tax also could add revenue for the city. The city officials said that it could help meet the increasing cost of services.

"We're still talking about the city's ability to provide services," said Mayor Thomas Menino. "We're not talking about the bottom line here; we're making a decision about the city's ability to provide services."

The proposal was introduced after the city's budget deficit was found to be $5 million.

The bill is expected to be voted on by the city council within the next week, and if approved, it would go into effect next year.

Students to Discuss Sexual Issues

By Deena Disraelly

The Sexual Issues Committee continues its efforts to promote campus-wide discussions about dangers, causes, and consequences that gender stereotyping may have.

The discussions, beginning in late February, will be based on living groups, each led by one male and one female facilitator. The trained volunteers will use different methods including discussion topics, questions about personal thoughts, and experiences and a variety of activities.

"I really want to get people in the living groups,atoriums, sororities, and dormitories discussing how gender stereotypes and socially constructed gender roles tie into our day-to-day lives," said Marcel P. Brochez, jr. '95, who wrote the proposal for facilitation groups.

Brochez was also involved in rape work and planning for the Sexual Positions program during Residence Orientation Week.

Brochez's proposal began as an assignment for the women's studies class Violence Against Women in Contemporary U.S. Society. It also served as a formal presentation of plans he hoped to see carried out.

"It's changed a lot since I wrote the proposal. The original proposal was just to get people discussing men's violence against women, especially sexual violence. Now it's about gender roles and stereotypes," Brochez said.

Participants were trained in two four-hour sessions during Independent Activities Period. The first class introduced the topic and its goals. Participants also discussed their own definitions of stereotypes and activities they could use in their own discussion groups.

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center conducted the second session, teaching SIC members to facilitate groups, set ground rules, and make their groups comfortable for open discussion.

Some of the facilitators may be graduate students and staff members. "A lot are people who we've had as facilitators before or people who are just known to us," said Arun R. Patel '93, one of the SIC organizers.

SIC may also produce "Hitting Home," written by Marvi Haynes, director of education and outreach at the Women's Crisis Center of Greater Newton. The play is about domestic violence. The play would be performed by a company using members of the SIC.

Group ran R/O's Sexual Positions

The SIC organized Sexual Positions last summer, resulting in a play and discussions during R/O Week.

Sexual Positions combined personal monologues with a skit about two students whose relationship ended in rape. After the play, students met with trained facilitators to discuss rape and sexual harassment.

"Sexual Positions had come originally from planning to have a panel discussion for freshmen during Rush," Patel said. He became involved in the program when he was asked to serve on the panel.

"I was surprised, because people knew I would speak out on my ideas," added Patel.

Patel said that this success in the eyes of the administration and the eyes of the people who did it. Everyone involved was pleased that it worked out well," Patel said. "We got involved in the production of Sexual Positions "thinking that it was a good idea and got support from the administration to keep working on similar projects." Patel continued.

New Bill May Tax MIT Land

By Jeremy Hyatt

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Cambridge Favors New CASPAR Plan

By Sarah Y. Keightley

MIT presented a new proposal to the Cambridge City Council yesterday to provide a permanent shelter for the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation at its current location on Institute Property.

In exchange for the building, MIT still seeks control of four city streets within the campus.

The new offer came after residents and several members of the city council voiced strong opposition to a plan to buy a permanent home for the CASPAR program in Central Square.

The council's initial reaction to the new plan was favorable. "We're moving along — this is a sudden movement," said Councilor Jonathan S. Myers. "I think that we're on track."

The CASPAR shelter has been looking for a permanent location for 19 years. In its new proposal, MIT offers to build a permanent shelter on 248 Albany Street. The shelter has been in temporary facilities at this location since 1979.

The $1.8 million to $2 million proposal was officially announced yesterday, and to date, the parties involved have reached an agreement in favorably. MIT had originally proposed to build a shelter at 330 Green St., but residents opposed the plan.

In return for CASPAR's site and building, MIT wants control of Con- slerton Street and Hayward Street, and Amherst Street and side-walks of Vassar Street west of Massachusetts Avenue.

Original proposal opposed

In the first proposal MIT offered to spend $2 million to buy and renovate a building at 380 Green St. for CASPAR's new home in exchange for the four city streets.

Several council members, as well as Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, strongly opposed this proposal. Reeves believed that MIT should build a building to the community. The choice of the Green Street location also upset local residents.

City councilors wanted to find a permanent location for CASPAR by March 1, but needed to find a way to fund the shelter if they chose not to accept MIT's original proposal.

The council also studied six sites, including the Green Street site, and found possible locations for the CASPAR shelter.

Announcing the new proposal, MIT President Charles M. Vest said, "We understand that there is presently no government money available to pay for a site, and it is clear that without a site, and a funding source, there will be no home for CASPAR. The fact that the exchange proposal allows the city to work with MIT in a partnership effort to use a public asset — some of the city streets on the MIT cam- pus — to fund a public need: CAS- PAR."