New UROP Guidelines Upset Students, Faculty

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"If you want any questions, are interested in joining the Baker Foundation, have any project ideas which you would like to see carried out, or would like to email your nomination to us, please contact the Foundation members at baker_foundation@mit.edu.

Nominations must be RECEIVED by: Friday, April 8th.

Everett Moore Baker Memorial Foundation, and the Award for Outstanding Teaching

On December 8, 1950, on his way back from a humanitarian trip to Egypt, Everett Moore Baker, then Dean of Students at MIT, died when his plane crashed onto the desert. During his tenure at the Institute he made such impact on undergraduate life that the students of MIT wanted to keep the memory of his name, his work, and his spirit alive, so that generations of students who had never had to opportunity to meet this man could remember his contributions to improving life at MIT.

Thus the Everett Moore Baker Memorial Foundation was born.

The purpose of the Foundation is to implement programs to improve the life of undergraduate students. Among other legacies, the Foundation helped to start Freshmen Associate Advising. More recently, we were involved with advocating the placement of more signs around the Institute to help freshmen, visitors, and others new to the campus, in getting around our confusing system of interconnected buildings.

Perhaps the best-known of our current projects is the Everett Moore Baker Award for Outstanding Teaching. It is fitting that the only teaching award presented each year to faculty chosen by undergraduates bears the name of Everett Moore Baker, for the quality of teaching at MIT has a great impact on our undergraduate educational experience.

The life of a professor at MIT is not an easy one -- like students, they often have to deal with pressure from many directions and juggle their different academic responsibilities. Consider acknowledging your professors that you feel have paid noteworthy attention to their teaching responsibilities by nominating them for the Baker Teaching Award.

Nomination forms will be arriving in your mailbox soon. If you have any questions, are interested in joining the Baker Foundation, have any project ideas which you would like to see carried out, or would like to email your nomination to us, please contact the Foundation members at baker_foundation@mit.edu.

MIT Not Told of Leak: At Beginning of Lease

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However, Janel assured residents that the ground water contamination will not affect residents' drinking water, which comes from the Quabbin Reservoir in western Massachusetts.

Huntington residents first learned of the contamination issue on March 16 in a memorandum from Paul McCaffrey, vice president of student affairs at MCA. The results of the tests were presented at a mandatory residents meeting on March 31, during MIT's spring break.

In his letter, Eisenmann said that McCaffrey apologized for schedule problems and has offered to hold another meeting. "We (MIT) first heard about [the testing] this past Tuesday afternoon," Eisenmann said. "It did take a long time for the information to get to MIT."

"Honestly, we don't know what's going on," said Huntington resident and Undergraduate Associate Vice President Anne S. Tsao '94. "Some Huntington residents just don't understand the impact of all of this," Tsao said.

While there have been health problems, it is "too hard to say if these health issues are related to the air contamination," Tsao said. Possible side effects of the contamination include dryness of the eyes and throat and sinus problems, she said.

"I see the problem as something that needs to be looked at. We only did one sample, so we have to do some additional sampling to see if that is a valid sample," Janel said. Wastewater plans to test some additional locations today, she said.

Environmental Medical Services Director Charles E. Billing said his office is analyzing further tests performed by MIT last Thursday. They will determine the level of contamination and decide on "the next logical course of action" in consultation with the housing office, MIT administrators, and students, Billing said.

Eisenmann said that MIT would be "more aware of this kind of thing as a potential concern" when buying or leasing dormitory space in the future.

High benzene levels

A benzene concentration of one part per billion was found in the tested television room. The Massachussets allowable ambient limit for benzene is 0.5 parts per million, according to Janel. The concentrations of the other chemicals were within the limits. However, the allowable ambient limit for benzene is based on a lifetime exposure. If the person inhaled day, 365 days a year, for 70 years, Janel said. "For workers who might encounter benzene on the job, the allowable exposure level for 40 hours in one part per million," Janel said, which might reflect a more accurate allowable exposure level for students. The allowable level for workers, which is 1,000 times higher than the levels found at Huntingon, is "not expected to produce any negative health effects in workers," Janel said.