Frosh Give 8.01 Mixed Reviews

By Angela Liao

The newly restructured Physics I (8.01) has received mixed reviews from students, while Professor of Physics Wit WORK, coordinator of the new program, calls the format “a success.”

“I like 8.01 better than my other classes,” said Katherine Shih ’98, a student in the class.

However, the sentiment is by no means universal. “Things vary too much from section to section,” said Olivia S. Song ’98. “Some professors of 8.01 have better teaching skills than others.”

The new format places more emphasis on “self-study,” WORK said. The goals of the new format are to require the materials of 8.01 and to teach people how to learn.”

In the old system, the recitation classes were not uniform [in teaching quality]. They were not well-attended, and the faculty was not very actively involved as they are now,” he said.

Despite this attitude, not all faculty have responded so positively to the changes. Professor Walter H. G. Lewin, who has taught 8.01 for three of the past four years, said that the old format “was usually well-received.”

Lewin views the format of 8.01 as having been “changed for the sake of changing. Why fix something that isn’t broke?”

Still, the change is not without 8.01, Page 12

MIT Considers New Bike Lanes

By Daniel C. Stevenson

Minutes from the Planning Office presented proposals for adding bicycle lanes to Massachusetts Avenue at a meeting yesterday afternoon. Space for the new lanes would come from removing one of the four vehicle lanes and possibly one of the two parking lanes.

Director of Planning G. Robert Simha MCP ’57 and Associate Planner Karen L. Green ’96 also presented redesign proposals for the intersections of Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive, Vassar Bridge from 11 feet to 10 feet, around 20 mph, he said.

The design of roads, Owu said. “We have a responsibility to ensure that all the community’s needs are addressed,” he said.

About 25 people attended the open meeting held in room 3-313 yesterday afternoon. The meeting included a video about the successful municipal cycling system in Delft, a city in the Netherlands, and a display of previous bicycle lane plans.

Plans call for three lanes

The Planning Office is considering two options for adding bicycle lanes to Massachusetts Avenue, Owu said. Both proposals reduce the lanes of traffic from four lanes to three lanes between Memorial Drive and Lafayette Square, which is near the fire station, he said.

One proposal calls for two parking lanes; the other has only one parking lane and wider bicycle lanes.

The current 15-foot wide sidewalks would be maintained because pedestrians are important and our first priority,” Owu said. The sidewalk space includes 5 feet of planning space, he said.

The three lanes of traffic would have 11 feet wide, and each parking lane would be 7 feet wide, Owu said. In the single parking lane proposal, the bicycle lane is 8 feet, 6 inches wide, including a 5-foot verge strip. The bicycle lane in the two parking lane proposal are 6 feet, 6 inches wide, with verge strips of 2 feet, 6 inches.

The verge strips form a buffer zone between parked cars and cyclists and make it difficult for a bicyclist to collide with an open car door, Owu said.

The crosswalk at 77 Massachusetts Ave. is a high traffic area for cyclists and makes it difficult for a bicyclist to collide with an open car door, Owu said.

The crosswalk at 77 Massachusetts Ave. is a high traffic area for both pedestrians and vehicles, Owu said. About 14,500 pedestrians cross the street between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, he said.

Each day, an average of 26,500 cars and trucks traverse the crosswalk, at travel speeds of 35 miles per hour, Owu said. During the peak hour between 5 and 6 p.m., an average of 156 bicyclists cross the street or ride past the crosswalk at speeds around 20 mph, he said.

Other plans call for reducing the width of vehicle lanes on the Harvard Bridge from 11 feet to 10 feet, 6 inches and increasing the bicycle lanes.

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CPs Create Crime Bulletin on Athena

By Don Lacey

Late last month, the Campus Police started a electronic mail list designed to keep members of the MIT community informed about crime on campus.

According to Sgt. Cheryl Voss, the list was created to respond to “the increased number of people requesting to be notified when we send out a crime prevention bulletin via e-mail.” The list, is simply “another avenue” for notifying people about crime, she said.

In general, students believe that the list is a good way to keep people informed about crime campus. One of the bulletin’s 82 current subscribers is Kenneth M. Porter ’96, the Safe Walk administrator, who said, “We have not received any information through the list yet, but he feels that it is definitely a good idea. If the “Campus Police send out information on a timely basis, then the mailing list should be a very useful resource,” Porter said.

Most subscribers, like East Cam-

pus President Parag Gupta ’96, share Porter’s opinions of the list. “I subscribed to this list to be more aware of what is going on around campus,” Gupta said. “The more people that are aware of any crimes that occur, the more careful they will be, and the safer MIT will be.”

That sentiment was echoed by David F. Lockwood ’96, who said that while he doesn’t have any strong feelings on the issue, he feels that it “can’t hurt for people to know more about what’s happening on campus because if they’re more informed, crime ought to decrease.”

Dana L. Endacott ’97, a resident of the Women’s Independent Living House, said that because of WILC’s location, “we’re really concerned about crime, and we will probably benefit from having access to the list.”

Kinch has not subscribed to the list because she already receives police bulletins through another mailing list. While most reaction has been

Gov’t Opposes Motion to Dismiss LaMacchia Case

By Sarah Y. Knightley

The federal government responded late last month to pre-trial motions made by lawyers for David M. LaMacchia ’95 in early October, opposing the motion to dismiss the case.

In response, LaMacchia’s counsel filed a reply brief on Nov. 4, according to Joy Fallens, a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, which is prosecuting the case against LaMacchia.

LaMacchia was indicted on April 7 on a charge of conspiracy to commit computer hacking and aiding and abetting in using two workstations in the Student Center Athena cluster to “permit and facilitate, on an international scale, the illegal copying and distribution of copyrighted software,” the indictment said.

Using a server running on the two workstations, Internet users could exchange copyrighted software, such as Microsoft Excel and WordPerfect. Losses of the pirated software are expected to exceed $1 million, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney’s Office last spring.

The defense motion to dismiss the case based its arguments on an