Hassles missing at Boston Flea Market

By Lee Giguere

Even in the drizzling rain the line stretched across to the next street. Young couples and middle-aged ladies in their fur jackets queued up to pay their dollar for the inaugural Patriot’s Day session of the Boston Flea Market.

Proclaimed the first flea market in a major New England city, the event drew a wide variety of people to view stalls selling everything from $225 antique music boxes to penny candy. Unless they happened to be wealthy (or hard-core antique collectors), most of the visitors did more looking than buying, and only a few of those leaving that afternoon went off bearing purchases.

Many of the merchants displayed their wares upon tables set under the eaves of the Quincy Market Building, directly across from Faneuil Hall. Some of the less fortunate found themselves caught in the rain, trapped in booths set up in a fenced-off section of the street.

The afternoon was low-key, except for Your Father’s Moustache, no one broke the decorum of the crowd. The vendors stood beside their tables, but no one shouted to the people shuffling by to tout their wares. The people who had thronged to the afternoon market remained restrained as they moved past the booths, glancing at the merchant and occasionally handing it. Only when the hand was extended in return did an occasional verbal accompaniment on the part of the wash-boardist and sign to direct crowd response, was the low hum that filled the street disturbed. Even the Christmas rush downtown is more raucous.

The stallkeepers for the most part conveyed the impression of antique dealers who were used to dealing with their customers in a more refined atmosphere. Only a pizza seller, established on a small table, gave the market any “European” flavor. The seller seemed to be continually agitated, arguing among themselves over the handling of each new tray of pizza. In one hour period, the law of supply and demand had led the enterprising money-handler for the group to raise his price five cents.

But they were the exceptions, as were the two young girls selling penny candy at another table.

The visiting crowd was equally restrained. Many, it seemed, must have come largely to look, for only a few more than walk slowly past the merchants’ displays, and even fewer could be seen leaving the market with a purchase.

A varied throng moved through the market. In the rain, middle-aged men could be seen carrying umbrellas to shield their wares, or perhaps their wives’ attire. The clothing of the shop at market conveyed the impression of the setting of the market. Many of them were very well turned out, in fashionable fur jackets and stylish suits. Mixed with these was a younger group, less well-dressed, and mingled with them all were their youngsters.

A pamphlet prepared by the market’s organizers pointed out that the prices on displayed items were flexible, and that dealers would often accept any reasonable offer. But little of this bagging seemed to be taking place.

The rain may have been responsible for diminishing both the enthusiasm and the numbers of the shoppers.

Social concern to guide Institute’s proxy voting

(Cocontinued from page 1) add “additional members” and “consultants” at the discretion of the chairmen. Thorn noted that plans have already been made for faculty committees to aid the subcommittee, although there have been no “specific proposals for student interaction.” He stated that these would be faculty and student representatives on the committee.

Wade commented that he personally felt that time factors rule out mass input for this year. However, he noted that “there may be some issues where this is important.” “It wouldn’t be practical,” he stated, “to have public hearings on the majority of issues.” Rather, he was concerned with having it evident to the community that “we are using our best judgment.”

Thorn admitted that the committee would hear more from people who are already interested in these issues, and revealed that he knew of no sure way to attract large-scale response. One problem, he felt, was that many people would not feel informed enough to comment.

Open 8:00 to 5:30

Larry’s Barber Shop

“For that well-groomed look”

Razoring, sun lamp facial

Serving Technom for over 35 years

POCO

BOSTON MUSIC HALL

SUNDAY, MAY 2 at 7:00 P.M.

THROUGH THE COURTYARD TO THE GARDEN AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE BUILDING, TOWARDS THE PARKING AREA.