Privacy guide made public

By Lee Giugere

The report calls for a set of "specific guidelines regarding to the collection, processing and use of information pertaining to identifiable individuals." In addition, it recommends that a "specific member of the Administration" be made responsible for protecting individual privacy and enforcing "pertinent rules and regulations."

The report contains the recommendation that Finboard budgeting "try to reflect the interests of the student body rather than specifically the administration." A discussion of the bookkeeping systems resulted in the assignment of a Finboard member to advise each activity in its bookkeeping.

The session also worked out next year's budget. Most organizations were carried over at approximately the same level of funding, but there were several significant changes.

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City may ban hitchhiking

By Bruce Schwartz

Hitchhiking in Cambridge may soon be penalizable by fines up to $10.

The Cambridge City Council passed a resolution last week by a vote of 6-3 instructing City Solicitor Philip M. Cronin to draw up an ordinance that would "discourage the practice of hitchhiking" in the city. The resolution labels hitching a "general nuisance," dangerous to traffic and providing an invitation to criminal acts.

Former mayor Walter Suttles introduced the measure. He has spoken out against hitchhiking before, but his move may have been sparked by an article which appeared in last Thursday's Cambridge Chronicle, a weekly newspaper, under the byline of Helen Aucliterlonie. The article was entitled "Hitchhiking, by the way, are picked up by young or middle-aged men, according to the article."

Also quoted extensively was police Lt. Leo Davenport. From his comments one can glean little basis for the notion that hitchhiking invites crime. He said he was sure that there have been lots of girls thinkinng rides who have been raped, but that the assaults were not reported. He had, he said, no knowledge of any such incidents reported to the police. He did cite one case of a girl who was picked up by three boys in a car, followed by police and busted with them when one of the boys lay a joint. One of the boys, Davenport told him they intended to drive the girl to Fresh Pond and rape her.

The traffic nuisance is more real. Drivers stopping suddenly for hitchhikers often cause rear-end collisions.

Hitchhiking is already illegal in Massachusetts under Chapter 90, Section 18a of the state code, but since the law provides only for token fines of $1.00, the first four convictions and $2.00 for each subsequent offense, it is

unenforceable. Enforcing the law would be too expensive in terms of police and court time wanted. Also, there are far too many hitchhikers.

In passing the resolution City Council is asking for an ordinance with teeth. $50 is the probable fine if the law ultimately goes through. (This is the same as the state fine line for hitching on Interstates and the Mass Pike.) Before such a law can be passed, however, the city council must research its constitutionality, and the ordinance must be written and read twice before the Council can vote. A public hearing may also be held.

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