By Beth Karpf  

The State House of Representatives was defending its actions to the State Senate on Monday, a bill to lower the legal drinking age to 18. The bill had passed the House earlier in the previous week.

In addition to being able to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages, 18-year-olds would also be allowed to work in bars and other establishments which serve alcoholic beverages.

The bill, in its final form, had two amendments attached. The first was for a non-binding referendum on the issue in November. The second set the date that the law would take effect at March 1, 1973. This delay would make it possible for the legislature to repeal the law before it became effective if such action were indicated by the results of the referendum.

During Monday's session, two attempts to add other amendments failed. One would have changed the age from 18 to 19 and the other would have allowed 18-year-olds to drink only with parental consent.

One of the major arguments presented for the bill was that it 18-year-olds had adult status in other areas (right to vote, eligibility for the draft and adult status in criminal cases) they should be given the right to drink. It was also stated that the end of the year Massachusetts would be surrounded by states with lower drinking ages and that if we didn't lower ours, young persons would drive across the border to drink and then get back on the highways.

Those against the bill said it would result in an increase in drunk driving accidents (Those who favored the bill cited New York as evidence to the contrary.) There were also attempts made to link a lowering of the drinking age to an increase in pregnancy and V.D. and a general deterioration of morality in our society. One representative said, "Soon, instead of teaching the 3 R's in our public schools, we'll be teaching the 3 B's; Booze, Butts and Brioads."

Correction

The 169-170 figure for female admissions to the class of '73, as reported in Tuesday's The Tech, was incorrect. The actual number admitted was 168, down from last year's 196.

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ASA sorts activities into two classes

(Continued from page 11) 

A common problem, there were no Class B activities registered at the present time. The election of a new officer was postponed until the spring. President Sawyer stated that, if necessary, the election would be conducted by mail ballot. Sawyer noted that many activities are facing financial and membership problems. He noted that most Class B activities have little communication with others. They don't pick up their mail and generally don't attend ASA meetings.

One of his goals is to arrange rooms spare rooms on the fourth floor of the Student Center so that space allocation will be more representative of the number of man hours used and activity requirements as opposed to its current state. He described the MIT Science Fiction Society as "budding at the seams" while some activities use their facilities only a few days each month.

In addition, Sawyer would like to see any group of students who want to use Mit facilities recognized as an activity. He notes that this has not always been the case in the past. He would also like to investigate ways for activities to generate sufficient funds to cover their requirements by themselves or, if necessary, through Finboard and the Activities Development Board.

It was announced at the meeting that the Finboard budget hearings will be held during the first two weeks in April. Budget request forms, mailed to all activities and also available in W20-401, are due today so that appointments can be scheduled. If an activity has not yet received a form or will be late in filing a request, they should contact Natalie Parks, Finboard Chairman, or the Finboard Office, W20-401, X5460.

House passes drinking at 18

Wallet and pocketbook thefts are on the increase throughout the Institute from offices, labs and library areas.

We solicit your cooperation in safeguarding your property.

Do not leave a pocketbook or wallet in plain view or in an unlocked desk drawer even for a few minutes. Placing pocketbooks under type-writer stools, under desks or in unlocked file cabinets does not constitute a safe practice.

The experienced thief is aware of these locations. Do not leave a wallet in a suit coat or jacket hanging on a coat rack in an unattended office. Since it is often impractical to lock one's office or lab on every brief departure, develop the habit of keeping all valuables in a locked cabinet or drawer.

Report all thefts promptly to the Campus Patrol, Extension 2997 or 2998.