By Tom Binney

Ashdown dining hall will be closed on December 20, according to Michael Reeves, Director of Housing and Food Services. The move comes as an effort to reduce the deficit suffered by the meal dining system, a trend of the past several years.

Several other factors influenced the administration’s decision. Much of the equipment in the dining hall is old and has been neglected, while still fully functional, is 25 years old and would soon require replacement. Although first estimates vary considerably, all estimates indicate that this modernization would cost in excess of $10,000.

In addition, the renovation of Ashdown House has considerably decreased the number of resident customers, and reduced the revenues accordingly.

However, according to Reeves, the primary cause is the deficit of the Ashdown system. Reeves added that the number of a la carte facilities was enough to reflect the actual number of customers using the facilities. Ashdown was chosen for shutdown because, as the smallest of the on-campus facilities, its customers can be most readily accommodated at Walker Memorial.

Efforts to renege rather than move either Walker or Lobell would create inconvenience and overcrowding at the remaining dining halls.

Reeves expressed regret at having to close Ashdown, generally regarded as the most comfortable and least institutional of the halls. A group of Ashdown residents is taking action to keep the dining hall open.

Carolyn Ann Ross, a member of the Ashdown House Committee reports that a petition asking the administration to renege its decision has been signed by over 900 people.

Reeves presents plan for GA reform

Undergraduate Association President Bob Schulte has announced plans to reorganize the General Assembly as the legislative arm of the UA. The GA last met over a year ago.

In recent months there have been outbreaks of dormitories and fraternities. Reeves said, “As you know, we are seeking to replace the constitution that provides for a General Assembly. I feel that it is no longer appropriate for us to blantly overlook this fact, and immediately to call in a meeting of the GA.”

The GA was formed in 1969 under provisions of the HAC Constitution, which was ratified in 1970. That year the Institute Committee (InnComm), which had been attacked because of its composition of chairpeople of the UA committees and other “student leaders.”

It was felt that InnComm was not capable of faithfully depicting student opinion, and the GA was, therefore, meant to be a representative forum for the expression of student thoughts to the administration.

From its outset, the GA was beset with problems of leadership, direct communication, and authority, until, slightly two years after its first meeting, the GA was quickly phased out by

By Mike McNamara

A large crowd gathered near the entrance of Baker House a week ago Tuesday afternoon to see a “piano drop.” Due to the efforts of the Campus Patrol, it almost didn’t happen, but, eventually, the crowd got its wish, and got to see a piano broken into pieces.

The idea of throwing a piano off the roof of the six-story dorm was the brainchild of Baker resident Charlie Bruno ’74, but became so popular that it was almost a house-wide project. Bruno thought so much of the great “hacks” of the past that MIT is so justly famous for that he couldn’t pass up the opportunity presented when Jon Kass ’74, another Bakerite, decided to get rid of his old piano.

“Just came to me and said that he had an old piano that had to be gotten rid of,” said Bruno. “So I thought it’s great to throw it off the roof, take movies and tape recordings of it, and turn it into a big huck.”

The event, which had at least four weeks of planning behind it, almost didn’t happen. “We wanted to drop it right at four o’clock Saturday, but you know,” Bruno said. “When four o’clock came, we had everything ready except the piano.” Bruno went down to the dorm, grabbed a “signing sheet,” said Bruno. “That’s how it was almost a house-wide project.”

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Bruno, who was a member of the undergraduate housing and the judicial system at MIT, said the fact that the piano was broken into pieces rather than tossed off the roof and not smashed against the dorms was due to the recent signing of the piano deal by over 1000 people.

The piano was finally dropped at midnight starting at 7:30 pm, and got to see a piano broken into pieces.

Baker runs an experiment

By Mike McNamara

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