New carpet for Baker hallways

By Martin Prince

In an attempt to develop color coordination in the halls of Baker House, the MIT Housing Office has asked Baker residents to consider a color scheme for the instan- ciation of carpets there. The resulting controversy over the value of carpeted hallways, however, points out the difficul- ties involved in accommodating dormitory improve- ments to students’ tastes.

Director of Housing and Food Services Eugene Branner said that the housing budget usually has a limited amount of money to spend on “personalizing” improvements for the individual houses in the dormitory system. He maintained, though, that it is worthwhile to add something to a house such as carpeting if the resi- dents have no desire for such an addition.

Branner added that Housing recognizes the variety of per- sonality among the MIT dorms. He feels that it is the job of Housing Services to promote the “uni- que character” of the many houses. To this end, housing provides free wall paint to resi- dents of East Campus and Senior House. Students in the dorms are generally consulted in the choice of new furniture.

In the case of the Baker House carpeting, Baker residents asked Housing to make an attempt to coordinate the colors chosen for fire doors, stairwells, trim, and borders. When MIT’s Interior Designer Vaki Siriani tried to do this, she found that Baker real- ly needs to be carpeted if there is to be a good sense of color coor- dination in the halls.

Confronted with the question of carpeted hallways, Baker resi- dentes expressed concerns about the continued visibility of water f Carrots to the backs. Another consideration in the appeal the carpeting would have to “BurtNet” and “MacGregor-type” freshmen during hours R of Weeks. Also questioned was the possibility of any improve- ment increases, and the added dif- ficulty in obtaining money for cleaning bricks if it is spent on carpeting.

According to Branner, rent does go up to cover the cost of improvements made in houses. He added that students have been involved in the past for damages in carpeting. Brann- er cited as the reason for these

Chilean government criticized

By Larry Duffy

and Bob Waterman

Three Chilean academics spoke at MIT last Tuesday against the repressive, military junta in Chile. The speakers had been supporters of Salvador Al- andez, the leftist government of Chile, and had been expelled from their country since the military coup in 1973.

The first to speak at the presenta- tion, entitled “Allende and the Military Dictatorship: Chile and the University of Chile,” was Professor Enrique Kirberg of Columbia University, formerly the Rector of the State Technical University of Chile. He spoke of the democratic tradition which existed in Chile before the coup, and of university students’ parti- cipation in Democracy.

The military coup had drastic effects on the universities, ex- plained Kirberg. “30 percent of the faculty were fired; students were jailed and killed.” The junta intended to “dumb down the minds of the youth.”

Kirberg, who had been a prisoner in a concentration camp on an island off the Chilean coast for two years, was released after an international campaign on his behalf. Kirberg expressed his gratitude to Jerome Wieser and other Americans for their support of this campaign.

The second speaker was Pro- fessor Claudio Grossman of the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, formerly President of the Law Student Federation of the University of Chile. He dis- cussed Allende’s reforms of the Chilean social structure which were accomplished “within the context of the law.” Grossman mentioned Allende’s policy of university democratization and how the University of Chile’s administration would be made by committees composed of 65 percent faculty, 25 percent stu- dents, and 10 percent administra- tion. He also talked about the hunger strikes of the academic programs under Allende, when a greater proportion of students were from the lower classes. Grossman stressed the Chilean desire for “autonomy for the univer- sities,” which are now controlled by the military regime. American pressure was cited as a helpful means toward achieving this end.

The final presentation of the evening was given by Dr. Giorgio Solimano of Columbia University. The former Director of the Nutrition Department, the Ministry of Health of Chile, Solimano came to MIT in 1974 after a year of imprisonment in Chile.

"Chile was one of the more progressive countries in Latin America," Solimano claimed. The Chilean National Health Ser- vice, established in 1952, pro- vided health care to the law- ening, income sectors of Chilean society up to the military coup in 1973, according to Solimano. He added that the Chilean Health Service’s “priorities focused on women, children, and the environment.”

The provision of food and health care for the poor was con- sidered a government duty in the Allende years, stated Solimano. Now, though, said Solimano, “vast segments” of the employed population can get the half of their necessary protein and calorie intake.

At one point in the presenta- tion, a question was posed around calling for cessation of United States aid to the Chilean military government. After about a minute of silence, the speeches, there followed a period for members of the audience to ask questions.

The talks were coordinated by the New England Chile Solidar- ity Committee, and were given also at Brandeis University and the University of Massachusetts earlier.