MIT dining service study begins

By Jordan Holland

The Committee on Campus Dining, a newly formed committee associated with the Office of the Chancellor, will be spending this academic year studying all aspects of dining on campus.

The purpose of the committee is to investigate "how to integrate dining into the total academic experience of the students and staff that together constitute the MIT community," said Chairman John G. Kasakian, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

"Kasakian continued that the response to the committee's appeals for input on the community's opinion of the various types of dining on campus should be good considering that there is "probably nothing people enjoy complaining about more than the food." He explained, however, that the committee will be looking at many of the broader issues involved with on campus dining and will try to avoid becoming confused by questions such as "whether orange juice is stocked on Thursday."

The precise questions the committee will attempt to address itself to are as yet nebulous, said Kasakian, because the committee was formed as a result of administrative initiative, not in response to a specific problem. In general, the committee will examine the "philosophical, financial, social, and gastronomic" aspects of dining on campus.

Kasakian pointed out that the phrase "dining on campus" meant all ways to procure food, and included eating at a cafeteria in the dining hall.

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New chapter added to fraternity system

By Jay Glass

A new fraternity chapter, Zeta Psi, has been accepted as an addition to the MIT fraternity system. Greg McKelvey, Executive Director of Zeta Psi Fraternity, commented that "we're very pleased that the IFC chose us out of the five nationals that applied and "MIT fits extremely well into our own international network of chapters."

McKelvey spoke at a reception Friday night in Burton dining hall. He added that MIT was a logical choice because the fraternity system here is the strongest in New England. Roughly 60 MIT undergraduates were welcomed at the meeting by three executive officers, several Boston area alumni and groups from Zeta Psi chapters at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts, Brown, Tufts, and the University of Connecticut.

According to McKelvey, Friday's party was only the first step in the process of colonization. Once students have shown an interest in Zeta Psi alumni, a sponsoring chapter will select a core group of pledges. The sponsoring chapter will then come from WPI, whose members will oversee pledge training. Working on campus will be Ken Dill, a Zeta Psi alumnus from Brown who is now studying at the Sloan School of Management.

The new pledges will work with a group of Boston-area alumni who have agreed to form a corporation to obtain housing for the new chapter. While no housing has yet been selected, McKelvey said, "We're committed to get it as soon as possible, possibly by the fall of 1979."

The fraternity plans to rush next fall regardless of completion of its house. When finished, Zeta Psi's house will be the first new residence in the MIT system since Random Hall was opened in the fall of 1979.

Several Zeta Psi chapters, including the group from WPI, sponsor a sister group. This is a female counterpart of the chapter that is included in all house activities and management, except for participation in the international fraternity and residence. Depending on whether the MIT chapter decides to follow its sponsoring chapter in this respect, women may be received in the same fashion at a future time, according to several IFC chapter members.

Zeta Psi was founded in 1847 at New York University and established the first Western Coast chapter of any fraternity at Berkeley in 1870. Zeta Psi became the first international fraternity with the addition of a chapter at the University of Toronto in 1879. Today the organization has 42 chapters located at most of the widely known universities in North America.

False Alarm at East Campus

By Lenny Martin

Fire emergency vehicles including two fire trucks raced to East Campus Saturday night in answering a false fire alarm that evacuated the dorm's West parallel.

The alarm was triggered at about 7:50pm on the 5th floor of the West parallel's Marine (southern) section. East Campus Judocom member Jim Kirk, 80, blamed the alarm on a stray frisbee but refused to speculate on who might have been responsible.

So did Third West Graduate Resident, Larry Kerann, 80, who added, "I think it's people being malicious. It's just they're fouling around."

Kirk and Kerann both expressed concern over the frequency of East Campus false alarms after being reminded by the Cambridge Chief of Police that each alarm costs MIT $650, and that a fireman was killed in answering one at MIT a few years ago. "Fifth West sets off one a term and has with great regularity" said Kirk. "If we have a real fire everybody's going to say, 'Oh, hell, another false alarm.'"

This attitude on the part of students has caused them to return to the building during past alarms before firemen arrive, according to Third West Hall Chairman, Michael Kans. He pointed out that the practice irritates firemen. Even the firemen appear to have grown accustomed to false alarms at MIT. "Last term we had a fire here and the firemen were walking around saying, 'In this really a fire?'" exclaimed Kirk. Fireman Bill Lively laughed after Saturday's alarm, and recalled past MIT alarms having such bizarre catalysts as a student doing chin-ups in the hall and an airborned leaf of bread. Asked about the feasibility of installing harder-to-activate alarms or inhibiting devices such as protective cages, Lively replied, "What can you do when they're playing ball with a load of bread?" He concluded, "There really should be better supervision."

Ames Street Substation Lieutenant Margan said that a vague wouldn't serve any purpose. "Just tell them to put their frisbees away," he added.

On a similar note, the Chief of Police asked East Campus leaders to talk to residents about tough housing in the halls. Kersman has been told by police that mental institutions get fewer false alarms than MIT and Harvard. He expressed concern over "bad will for MIT."

Kirk said he plans to take the problem to the MIT Safety Office and commented that "something ought to be done about it soon."

Kersman noted that proposals to change the type of alarm or inhibit access to it have come up repeatedly in the past, but with no results.