New House to become coed

By Tom Curtis

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs has tentatively approved 15 spaces for women in New House and opened one more floor of East Campus to coed living. The Dean's Office acted on recommendations from the Coed Study Committee, a group including representatives from the Dean's Office and representatives from both single-sex and coed dormitories and fraternities. The Dean's Office did not approve coed living for either Random Hall or Fenway House, two other living groups requesting it. According to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert Sherwood, both the Coed Study Committee and the Dean's Office felt that a decision on coed living for Random Hall should be postponed until 1981 since the dormitory will not have any open spaces available for women next year.

Fenway House was not approved because the Dean's Office is concerned about the crime rate in Fenway's neighborhood. Fenway residents, however, are trying to find statistics on the crime rate, and the decision could be reconsidered in the next few days.

Coed living has also been approved for Spanish House, a proposed living group. Sherwood said the extension of coed living to these groups should not affect the male/female ratio in current coed living groups since there should be more women at MIT next year. He also said house presidents had been consulted on making more living groups coed.

Students protest Spanish House plan

By William Cinino and Steven Subich

Thirty New House residents rallied last Wednesday morning in front of the offices of President Jerome Wiener and Vice-President Constantine Simonides to protest a proposal to incorporate a coed living group, Spanish House, into the all-male House 3 of New House. That decision of the Residential Group Committee of the Dean's Office is widely opposed by House 3 residents.

On Friday, April 6, Dean for Student Affairs Robert Sherwood met with New House tutors Jim Williams and Karen Goodall and Professor of Spanish Marjorie Resnick. At this meeting Sherwood expressed his support for the proposal that Spanish House be incorporated into the New House dormitory.

A general meeting with Sherwood, Williams, Goodall, professors, representatives, and tutors from all the New Houses concerned was held Monday, April 9. At this meeting, Sherwood announced the DSA's decision to use a portion of House 3 for Spanish House.

Jim Gottwald '81, a resident of New House and leader of Wednesday's protest, said that in Monday's meeting, Sherwood intended to discuss how Spanish House should be moved into New House, rather than if it should be moved into the dorm at all. According to Gottwald, the main objection of New House residents is that the Dean's Office did not consult New House residents before making such a decision.

According to a House 3 resident present at Monday's meeting, Sherwood felt that New House was in favor of placing Spanish House there, but added that the proposal had met with strong opposition from other dorms while New House had not raised such objections.

Sherwood said he "understood the feeling of frustration," but contended that the Dean's Office was "not trying to be oppressive." He cited his refusal to allow Zeta Psi to move into part of New House as an example of this.

Sherwood said the Spanish House proposal has been circulating for four years and stated he was "astounded" at the charges of secrecy. The issue was discussed with New House government, and Sherwood met with all of the houses involved.

He said there would be problems moving Spanish House into any dormitory but that the large graduation rate in New House next year "offered a unique opportunity to start Spanish House while displacing the fewest students."

The critical point for a while will be the ID cards. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert Holsten admitted that getting "proofed" is annoying, but advised students to "play it cool."

"We haven't had any practical experience with this," Holsten noted. "We want feedback." Holsten also noted that people and establishments will differ in their willingness to take the risk of selling false ID's.

A liquor license is required wherever alcohol is sold. This license costs parties paid where alcohol is served. Holsten said the Dean's Office would like to see a license applied for two weeks in advance to discuss enforcing the drinking age.

With regard to the residential groups, Associate Dean Robert Sherwood advised discretion, and noted that announcements of activities such as beer blasts would not be allowed in the residence house which is mailed to all incoming freshmen.

The Dean's Office is waiting to see what rules the Inter- Fraternity Conference and Dormitory Council formulate before announcing any new policy. Sherwood said "We're all responsible people. We're waiting to see what they come up with."

Hakala, Markham win UA race

By Richard Salz

John Hakala '81, the new Undergraduate Association President, and Chuck Markham '81, UA Vice President, garnered 682 votes to win the elections, according to Steve Forman and Jerry Hammond by 147 votes.

"Our goal is to improve the quality of individual student life here at MIT," said both Hakala and Markham. They are currently in the process of selecting someone to appear as Secretary General. "We're looking to give someone who has a lot of ideas and working experience official backing," said Markham.

The officers want to convene their first General Assembly in late April or early May. "We are going to be asking the General Assembly to make substantial decisions," Hakala said.

In addition to reinstating the procedure of the GA approving all of the Nominations Committee's recommendations, Hakala and Markham intended to have the GA approve the Financial Board's budget.

In addition, Markham is working on a proposal to have a "student activity fee" for Sherwood said, "a students' bill. The amount would be decided by the GA, and the spending of the money would be controlled by Finboard and the GA."

The two also want to set up a UA Social Committee, probably with seven members, both from dormitories and fraternities.

The officers need to convene open lines of communication. Either Hakala or Markham would be at almost every meeting. Hakala and Markham are interested in increasing that figure for next year. Possibilities mentioned included appointing an election commision or mailing ballots for UA referenda.

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"There are a lot of good ideas that came up at this election," said Hakala. "We want to help the people who come up with them implement them." Added Markham, "I think you're going to see a lot of John and I are more flexible."

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By Bob Wasserman

"There will be an enormous psychological impact on society because of the events at the Three Mile Island reactor," said Professor Norman Rasmussen, head of the Nuclear Engineering Department, in a forum on reactor safety on April 8 at Northeastern University.

His respondent was Professor of Physics Henry Kendall, who is chair of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and a strong opponent of nuclear energy.

"Nineteen seventy-nine appears to have a negative impact on society," said Kendall. He then documented the series of events which included the repudiation by the Nuclear Energy Commission of the Rasmussen report on the risks of reactor safety, the closing of five east-coast nuclear plants because of design error, and finally the events at Harrisburg.

"This country feels a distress (Please turn to page 5)