Fenway House approved as safe for coed living

By Tom Curtiss

Coed living for Fenway House has been approved by the Dean's Office on a one year trial basis, starting next fall. This decision reverses an earlier Dean's Office decision that stated that Fenway could not house coed residents. The reason stated was that Fenway would not assure the assigned minimum quota of women living in the neighborhood.

The new Dean's Office decision allows for review of Fenway's coed status at the end of next year. Sherwood indicated that if there is any chance Fenway's coed status will be terminated, student living groups will be consulted before any decision is reached. Fenway will be reviewed on the basis of safety and number of women, the two issues which have most concerned the Dean's Office.

On Tuesday, Smith, the leader of the Fenway protest, showed Sherwood statistics from the Boston Police Department which he claimed showed "the Fenway House block is one of the safest in the city." The figure was based on the ratio of residents to police presence.

The Senator said the main cause of the problem is the ap- parent sentiment of government officials that money is a universal cure for the problems faced by this area. He mentioned as an example the issue of cancer research, "If it's cancer, let's fund it," and likened this to the funding of other problems with a similar approach.

Sherwood also received two letters from administrators at the Boston Conservatory of Music, which is located in Fenway's neighborhood. Both letters stated that the neighborhood is general- ly safe. Fenway's system for admitting new residents had concerned the Deans. Unlike most off-campus living groups, Fenway House does not bid for freshmen, but in- vites any freshman to move into the house until all the openings are filled. Thus, Fenway House could not assure the Deans that it would have a minimum number of women because men might grab the open slots first. The Dears want a minimum number of women in a living group so the women will not feel isolated.

Smith has proposed a system to cope with this problem. He sug- gested reserving 40 percent of Fenway's openings for women until half-way through rush week. This system would operate for two years until there would no longer be a concern about having a minimum number of women.

Smith says Fenway will be try- ing to get three upperclasswomen to move into the house next fall. He says ideal Fenway will take three of the six fresh men places.

On Monday evening in room 26-294, the lecture, sponsored by the Lecture Series Committee (LSC), was well attended, despite the absence of an admission charge. LSC had originally scheduled a lecture by Ralph Bakshi for that evening which was later cancelled, and was able to get Proximire to lecture on short notice.

Proximire is the founder of the Golden Fleece Award for wasteful government spending, which he presents for what he considers "not acceprable" but that the CIA "has put itself outside the law." The Ad Hoc Committee report pressed the contrast between the secrecy inherent in intelligence operations, and the "openness of free and open exchange of ideas" in which "university learning and research thrives best. As academics relating to the CIA was termed "a serious matter," Hoffman said that "the con- servation that classified research is inconsistent with an open free at- mosphere." However, "it does not follow that no classified research can be permitted at MIT," he said.

The lecture centered on what he considered "the most important issue." He wondered to what extent either the CIA or the government should be permitted on the MIT campus. Chauncey argued that the dis- tinction between classified and proprietary research is not useful. Why, he asked, do we just call the Gor- dian Knot, "He said, "I don't think any such research should be permitted at MIT except at Lincoln Labs."

Hoffman said that "the con- sensus of the ad hoc committee is that classified research is inconsis- tent with an open free at- mosphere." However, "it does not follow that no classified research can be permitted at MIT," he said.

In response to Hakala, Hof- man said he is "looking for ways to engage students in significant discussions" on MIT policy toward the intelligence agencies, and he said the Ad Ho Com- mittee wants to hold public meetings with students.

He encouraged all members of the MIT community to obtain a copy of the report from the MIT News Office (3-109), and to con- tact him at his office (x3-380).

A team of MIT debaters are competing in the National De- bate Tournament at the University of Kentucky this weekend.