By Jack Link

A small but energetic group of students, unsatisfied with the administration's plans for forced commons, rallied last Friday in Lobby 7, led by Sue Fine '81, one of the organizers of the Student Committee Against Mandatory Commons (SCAM).

The protest occurred in Lobby 7 at 1pm, where Fine spoke for about 10 minutes. She cited objections to the mandatory commons proposal such as the cost of the proposed plan and the lack of flexibility, which she said would hurt those with special diet requirements. The crowd numbered as more than a hundred students at its height.

Fine was applauded enthusiastically when she concluded. Members of the crowd voiced their objections to the plan in one another. "The quality of the food served on commons now is pretty bad. Imagine what it will be like when they don't have to attract their customers," said Brian Huggett '81, a Baker resident. "People don't like to be forced to do anything," declared Mike Gerardi '81, an East Campus resident. "The new plan will hurt our independent lifestyle." The demonstrators took up clapping and chanting "No forced commons!

Just as it seemed the protest rally might break up, the sign-carrying Gerardi rallied the others about him and urged the crowd on down the main corridor and upstairs to the President and Chancellor's office. The leaders of SCAM reluctantly went along, and about half of the crowd followed.

They were met at the office by a locked door, flanked by two security guards. Jim Callison, Director of Personnel, attempted to convince the crowd that there was no reason to stay, since Chancellor Paul Gray '54 was "out to lunch.

What the demonstrators have fought to bring to light is the fact that there is sufficient funding for student activities under the existing organizations. The policies of these organizations need revision for a more efficient allocation of money, according to many student leaders. It is this problem which the SCC was supposed to address, a goal which has not been achieved.

The money has not been spent and the committees have been misdirected due to a lack of student input. Acknowledging the problems, SCC Chairman Chris Wheeler '81 commented, "No one has given the SCC a good idea worth spending $30,000 on.

The demonstration that produced these charges seems to have arisen from a desire to make "hidden" funds available to the student body.

Caffilion said the rally "certainly shows students' concern about the new dining plan, and that some students want to make their feelings known.

Gerardi, believing the Chancellor and the MIT Corporation were dining in the Faculty Club, attempted to move the rally outside. The leaders were confronted by Fine, who refused to go any farther, and the rally disintegrated.

"I promised Jon [Glaudemans '80, Lobby 7 coordinator] he wouldn't incite disturbances. The students who are in class don't want us to disturb them," said Fine. In regard to the rally, she lamented, "There weren't enough people. We were hoping for overcrowding numbers. Also, it was a more disturbance than we had planned for.

David McMullen '83, a non-participant who observed the march through the music auditorium, agreed. "The Chancellor may think about it for a day and then forget about it." Most of the students, participants or not, seemed to support SCAM and no hecklers were on hand.

SCAM's future plans are uncertain. Many participants in the rally seemed in favor of making the rally "last Friday lunchtime tradition until an impact is made on the administration. Some said they were glad to miss lunch by taking time out for the rally. "I'm replacing lunch with protests." Fine seemed against the idea, however, seeming to favor a UA referendum. Future funding from the UA was also uncertain, according to Fine.

Fine personally feels the new dining plan will have a detrimental effect on her dorm, McGregor. "As of now, only 14 percent of our residents are on commons. Clearly, the average current McGregor resident prefers to cook independently.

"The rally was about as affective as any other measures we've taken," said Rusty Chikerki '82, the third leader of SCAM. "In general, the administration doesn't learn anything we do."}

### Olympiad is new spring weekend

By Eric Johns

A new social event will be appearing at MIT this spring - the MIT Spring Olympiad. The Spring Olympiad will replace the Spring Festival which has traditionally been the major social event of the spring semester.

Scheduled for the weekend of April 25-27, the Spring Olympiad will be three days of food, games, and parties, with all proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The event will begin Friday night with music and dancing at the Student Center, followed by a "Festival of Races" the next day. Saturday night a "Rites of Spring" party in the MIT Gymnasium will be held.

Competitions will be held throughout the weekend between teams from MIT, Wellesley, and Simmons living quarters. According to Dr. Philip Zimbali of the Psychology Department, "We have tried to make this activity attractive to all of the MIT community involvement is expected."

At first there was concern among the dormitories that the Spring Olympiad would be dominated by the fraternities. The fact of a "Gruck" and other fraternities joining the Student Center, sponsored Spring Picnic on Sunday. Events preserved from previous years will include the Charm's Annual Drinking Contest, the All Tech Sing, and the SCC dance. The new events include the Cha'Kick, the Battle of the Bands (featuring top local bands) and the large Saturday night "Rites of Spring" party in Depot gymnasium.

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Tickets for the event will be on sale next week, and the rules for the ice cream eating contest are available from Don Isbath at the Student Center.

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