Ashdown residents oppose dorm switch

By Laura Farlie

I haven't found any resident in Ashdown House in favor of the proposed cross-campus housing switch, stated the chairman of the Ashdown House Executive Committee (AHEC), Don Peterson. G. The Ashdown residents have expressed dissatisfaction with both the dormitory switch proposal and the proposal to convert Walker Memorial into a graduate student center.

The lack of privacy and kitchen space in the east campus dormitories were the main topics of complaint in letters by Ashdown residents, given to Peterson. "Our suites provide quiet from the hall; if your door opens to a hallway, you're going to have noises," noted a former resident of Ashdown, Davey G. He is also worried that even if Ashdown has adequate rooms for kitchen in east campus dormitories, the building of those rooms would be "boney" and the west might fall.

Also, Peterson said there would be no place in an east campus dormitory big enough to hold the weekly Thursday night coffee hours which attract 200-250 residents of Ashdown and have become a tradition.

Another graduate resident, Arnie Pachtman, felt that "moving the undergraduates from Ashdown would be terrible. College opens new dorms with hopes that students at least stay by senior House will happen," Pachtman commented. "It's not fair to say to these residents, 'You've got to move here, but you can't bring your culture.'"

"Graduate students need the cultural deference to the place which is not something that someone talks about; it's just there," Doyle stated that Avery Allen Ashdown had been the residential program chair for many years while that place was called "Graduate House." (AHEC)

The chairman of AHEC has alternative proposals to the cross-campus housing switch. He finds "much ill-used space" around the house which could provide for more beds for graduate students. The Dean's Office should also have a system to make apartments around the Ashdown/Boston area more available to graduate students, according to Peterson.

The residents of Ashdown are against the conversion of Walker Memorial into a graduate student center because they view it as unnecessary. Doyle stated, "It's only going to be the people close by who are going to frequent the place." "The deans have a warped view of student social life," stated Ashdown resident Phil Agre. "Social life for graduate students is for in predetermined locations.

Ashdown social chairman Bill Hermann said that if the Dean's Office wishes to have a graduate student center, it could conceivably be located in Ashdown dining hall. "The people do not have that much of a choice, the food to have been better than the "Muddy Charles Pub" in Walker anyway," he stated.

Ashdown residents are against a proposed alternative to have a combined undergraduate/graduate dormitory. "I don't think it would work," too well, with our neighbors hearing stories, etc.," stated Peterson. "Graduate students benefit from socializing with graduate students."

The proposal that the number of terms graduate students should be allowed to create a campus also met with disapproval. "A two-year limit would only open up 20 percent more rooms each fall," explained Peterson.

Ashdown resident Harry Fujimoto noted that "People who have been here for years for good advice. Also, the things that get done here by people who have been here for a longer time are very professional. All commenting agreed that it would be "devastating" to have to look for an apartment during a crucial part of working on one's thesis,

USC from Cambridge reports on this year's Waver award made of Xerox Wafer. Page 4.

Screamed Feet presents a highly talented cast (except for the duck, who can not play the piano. Page 6.

Analysis

Is LSC's price raise justified?

By Richard Salz

On April 7, the Lecture Series Committee (LSC) voted to raise the price of movie admission to $1.00, effective next September.

The last raise, from 50 cents to the present 75 cents, took place in February

The 1978 raise, coming as it did halfway through the school year, caused quite an uproar among the MIT community, according to several LSC Committee members present at this year's April 7 meeting. This was mentioned as one of the reasons — if not the primary one — for raising prices next September as opposed to next February, although the need for the increase might then become more apparent than it is now.

Another reason given for the increase is that LSC's primary purpose is to provide a lecture program to the MIT community. This program has a long tradition of losing money. The lecture program has run at a loss of around $1,000 to almost $15,000 over the same period of time. In addition, refreshments and other income such as outside production work have been responsible for an almost equal amount.

Movie attendance for the past season has averaged out to 40,000 over the semester, according to Steve Meretzky '79, Treasurer. This was an increase of several hundred dollars over the previous season. Movie profits, on the other hand, have risen from almost $7,000 to almost $12,000 over the same period of time. In addition, refreshments and other income such as outside production work have been responsible for an almost equal amount.

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The MIT community, according to Peterson, "has become LSC's primary service to the community and clearly occupies the majority of their issue-raise by the price hike is whether LSC's role within the community is the same as it was in 1965 or whether it has actually changed over the years.