CampusWatch

U-Mass flushes coed bathrooms

By Sarah Bignone

Coeducational bathrooms may soon be a thing of the past at the
University of Massachusetts (U-Mass) at Amherst due to a provision
of the Massachusetts State Plumbing Code which mandates separate
but equal restrooms in public buildings.

"We're a public institution and so we have to deal with Com-
momwealth policies," commented U-Mass Director of Residential Life
Dr. Margery T. Fein. Lea said not reveal an estimated cost for the
proposed renovations.

The school has had coeducational bathrooms since students voted to
have coeducational floors about ten years ago. But a number of recent
complaints by parents and students has caused the U-Mass administra-
tion to enforce the state code. Thus, the administrators are currently
reviving the school's bathroom policy. Their decision will affect ap-
proximately eighty percent of the dormitory residents.

A small group of students has formed a coeducational coalition that
led a demonstration last week, but in general response has been
minimal. "The media are more interested than the students," said
Lea.

One angry student remarked, "Most people feel the area a stupid
and we're going to fight it. There are more important matters... like
educational costs."

Individuals and groups of students representing dormitory floors
have written letters to the student newspaper requesting to maintain
their current lifestyles.

Another student said that even if students cannot prevent the ad-
ministration from spending money on remodeling the facilities, it is
impossible to maintain single sex bathrooms.

As for the effect of this controversy on MIT, "There has been no
complaint from our students at the present time," said George
Harwell, Associate Director of Housing and Food Services. Harwell
was unsure of the problem at U-Mass. "We don't anticipate any
problems, but if it comes up we're ready to discuss it," he explained.

Last Campus President, David Fenn '82, said that he had never en-
countered any problems with coeducational bathrooms. "Sometimes in
the past a resident has requested an all female bathroom and has been
accommodated," he added. According to Fenn a complete transformation
would be inconvenient, but if it did transpire the single sex restric-
tions would be strictly enforced.

Red Cross to raise funds
with Swim-A-Cross

By Lawrence Choi

The American Red Cross will
hold a Swim-A-Cross at MIT's
Alumni Pool, on March 18. The
fund-raising event, held national-
ly by the Red Cross at various
local level, marks the occasion
of the 100th anniversary of the
organization started in 1881 by
Clara Barton.

The MIT Swim-A-Cross wasorganized by James E. Mc-
cormick '79 and Robert W.
Dawson '82, who hope to raise a
minimum of $500 in voluntary
donations for the Cambridge
Chapter of the American Red
Cross.

The Cambridge Chapter
provides extensive humanitar-
ian services to the community of
Cambridge, including MIT. Last
year, they were involved in help-
ing the victims from 21 fires in the
city, taught 326 first aid clas-
ses, certified 1,110 persons in
water safety classes, and collected
11,460 pints of blood (4,049
from MIT), according to Renald
Verde, Executive Director of the
Cambridge Chapter.

Funding for the Red Cross
activities does not come from the
government, but only from con-
tributions from the general
public, noted Verde. The largest
portion of the Cambridge Chaper's operating budget is
provided by local United Way agencies.

Money for the Swim-A-Cross
program will be raised through
pledges, on a per-length basis, by
eighteen teams. The teams, which
have not yet been determined,
will swim for four hours each. Each
team will consist of not more than six
swimmers, and will be from dif-
ferent living groups. The top
money raiser will be awarded nine
gallons of ice cream.

Dawson expressed the wish
that many members of the MIT
community would come and
swim for the swimmers.

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Contact Anne Keenan
dl 9316 for information and registration

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