Dorms petition for women

By Max Halperin
MacGregor C and E entries ask for coed living

MacGregor House's C and E entries have petitioned the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs to become coed, according to House President Greg Buliavac '81.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood said the request will be considered later together with any other requests his office may receive. He said, however, "I'm not sure that we may not have already saturated the market."

"Buliavac has been talking about making their last two floors coed, and there's another house in New House (Ballard) that wants to go coed," said Sherwood. "I'm sending out a letter today this week saying that I'd like all additional coed requests by the end of the month."

According to Sherwood, "What we're trying to do is optimize the number of options women students have."

Buliavac explained "a couple of entries will have a large number of rooms opening up, they thought it up before Houseman and Housemen thought it was okay." The idea of MacGregor becoming coed is not new. "Last year they put it on the ballot... and the house voted to go coed... but no one could agree on how."

"The previous proposals called for making an entire entry or floor coed, according to Buliavac, and "no one wanted to leave their entry."

"This time it is just a couple times doing it themselves, so they don't have to get the whole house to agree on it," he explained.

At 500 Memorial Drive "There was an overwhelming vote at a house meeting to ask the Dean's Office to make the second and fifth floors coed," said house president Daniel Penn '82. "We want the entire house, except our all-female section of the fourth floor to be coed."

"The major change they'll have to make at [MacGregor] is getting more Tab," he said. "In every year that would have taxed one row of Tab."

Ramones for Spring Weekend

By Heather Preston
"Their South American trip fell through," said Winthrop Cody '82, Social Council coordinator for the Spring Weekend concert. "And there was no one who was trying to meet the booking. We have not agreed [the contract yet], but we will get it." Cody originally approached the Ramones after an unsuccessful try for the B-52's, who were booked by Don Law for the Orpheum Theater on the date of MIT's Spring Concert. At that time, the Ramones were scheduled to tour South America, but the trip was cancelled for reasons unknown to the Student Center Committee, which is sponsoring the concert.

"The Ramones will get $6500 for the concert, which will open with two local bands, The Peter Dayton Band and The Nears. Actually, both SCC and Phi Sigma Kappa have yet to sign the contract. Phi Sigma Kappa has promised to reimburse SCC fifty cents per ticket for each unsold ticket under 2500. We expect the concert to sell out, but SCC plans to lose quite a lot of money on the concert. The total budget is around $12,000," explained Steve Thomas '81, SCC chairman.

Councillors want to tax MIT

By Heather Preston
MIT is one of the largest land holdings in Cambridge. The MIT makes voluntary payment in lieu of taxes on its educational land holdings in Cambridge.

"Fifty-four percent of all Cambridge property is tax-exempt, if we had no in-lieu-of-taxes, we would be one bankrupt city," said City Councilor William David E. Sullivan '74. "MIT owes 40 percent of all the tax paid by Harvard, MIT, and Lesley University."

As a private, non-profit educational institution, MIT enjoys tax-exempt status from many types of taxation, including that levied on property. MIT is not required by law or by Federal law to make any property tax payments on buildings and lands used for academic purposes. Since 1978, the Institute has made payments "in lieu of taxes" each year, according to Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Relations. Many people in Cambridge city government would like to impose payments increased.

"I proposed legislation last year that would have taxed the universities [in Cambridge] at 50 percent of the rate others are paying," said Sullivan. "I wanted to tax all their personal property. It's all tax-exempt. Every time they take buildings off of the tax rolls, the city loses [revenues]." added Alfred E. Vellucci, mayor of Cambridge.

Kendall Valentine, MIT Assistant to the Treasurer, replied "You can not apply a tax selectively. In property taxes one of the rules is that they be applied with an even hand. Unfair taxation is one of the [legal] grounds for abatement." Valentine asserted that Cambridge does not enforce personal property taxes for desks and lab equipment, so any attempt to enforce such taxation on MIT, even if it had legal justification, would fail due to the uneven application of the tax.

Regarding Sullivan's proposed 50 percent tax rate, Valentine answered, "A major college with a lot of academic buildings has no really available market. I am sure that a few of our buildings might catch the attention of certain buyers at certain times, but we have not been selling them, and if we were, we could not sell more than a few of them."

Valentine referred only to academic buildings.

In addition to its academic holdings, MIT owns about 105 acres (Please turn to page 5).