Cambridge to vote: services or lower tax

By Barry S. Simon

Cambridge residents are voting today on two proposals to mitigate the tax hikes mandated by Proposition 2 1/2, the property tax reduction passed by Massachusetts voters in November, 1980.

Under Proposition 2 1/2, Massachusetts cities and towns are required to cut their property tax revenues by 15 percent annually, until property is taxed at the rate of 2 1/2 percent of "full and fair market value."

Dean, UA discuss new fee proposal

By Tony Zamperelli

Vice President Constantine B. Simonides, Dean for Student Affairs Shirley Meloy, and student government and activity representatives discussed at a dinner yesterday the possibility of funding the Undergraduate Association (UA) by a direct activities fee charged all undergraduates.

The Association of Student Activities (ASA) Executive Committee approved at their last meeting a proposal to transfer the funding for the UA budget from the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) to a student activities fee set by the UA. Under the proposal, tuition charges would be increased to accommodate the transfer.

Ken Metzger '83, UA Vice President, said he and UA President Ken Segal '83 opposed to the activities fee. Many students would be adverse to such a fee and might call for the UA budget to be reduced rather than increased, he noted. The General Assembly might even decide to eliminate the tax, leaving the UA without any budget, he suggested.

"If we as students do not trust ourselves to run government efficiently," he added, "then voting down the UA budget is justified, contended Samuel Austin III '82, ASA President. He and Arnold Contreras '83, ASA Treasurer, contended the activities fee would give the UA control over its size and budget.

Professor Jeffrey Meldman '65, Chairman of the Activities Development Board, suggested that the UA leaders first add a larger budget they ask the administration to boost taxation by a small amount to provide additional activities funding.

The General Assembly will consider at its next meeting a resolution requesting the UA activities and government budget to be (Please turn to page 5)

Question One on the city ballot asks voters to authorize Cambridge to cut property taxes by only 75 percent in fiscal year 1983. A majority vote is required to pass the question.

Question Two, if approved by two-thirds of those voting, would allow the city to keep property taxes at their present level for one year. If both measures pass, taxes will remain at current levels next year.

Two-thirds of the $120 million Cambridge city budget is raised through property taxes, according to Councillor David Sullivan '74, Revenue liaison for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1981. When Proposition 2 1/2 took effect, forced the cutting of 450 employees from the city payroll, he noted, if the voters reject today's referenda, 500 more layoffs - including 54 firefighters and 55 police officers will be necessary for the coming fiscal year.

Although most students would not be affected by changes in the property tax rate, Sullivan said, "a lot of these [costs] have a fairly direct effect on students" because of personnel cuts in the Police, Fire, and Rent Control departments.

This year's Tech Show has increased the Musical Theatre Guild's debt.

By Laura Farhie

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild (MTG) lost between $3,500 and $4,000 in its presentation of Tech Show '82 this month, according to MTG Treasurer Kenneth D. Cornett '84. The losses from Big Show will push the Guild's debt to over $8,000 before Tech Show. MTG owed MIT approximately $6,500, Cornett said. MTG now owes the Institute about $8,000, he continued, and this debt will increase because all "the bills are not in yet.

MTG has a checking account with a balance of about $6,000, Cornett said, but the Guild needs about $3,000 in the account to "maintain an operating budget."

"I don't think we will go bankrupt," commented MTG President Linda A. Schaffir '82. She and Cornett said the figures are rough and are only preliminary.

MTG, like many student activities, pays its bills through MIT. The Institute issues checks for activities and deducts the amount from the group's account balance. Unlike a bank, however, MIT sometimes allows accounts to hold negative balances.

"We just can't afford to lose money on the next couple of shows," Cornett said. "The debt will be paid over the course of making money on our next shows."

Cornett claimed MTG has broken even on its shows over the past few years. The guild will try to make money on future productions by "budgeting things differently," he said.

MTG may ask the (Please turn to page 2)

Amherst Street fire damages laboratory

By Robert E. Machmack

A one-alarm fire broke out Sunday evening at the Research Institute for Medicine and Biology at 49 Amherst Street, across the street from the new Whistler College of Health, Science and Technology.

The Research Institute is not associated with MIT. There were no injuries, though a couple of the firemen received mild electrical shocks when they first engaged their hoses.

A one-alarm fire broke out Sunday night in an Amherst Street building.

Tech Show loses money

MIT Musical Theatre Guild is in debt to institute

By Laura Farhie

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