Cambridge to vote: services or lower tax

By Barry S. Serman

Cambridge residents are voting today on two proposals to mitigate the tax cuts mandated by Proposition 21/2, the property-tax reduction passed by Massachusetts voters in November 1980. Under Proposition 21/2, Massachusetts cities and towns are required to cut their property tax rates at their present level or lower annually, until property is taxed at the rate of 21/2 percent of "full and fair market value.

Dean, UA discuss new fee proposal

By Tony Zamparini

Vice President Constantine S. Stourides, Dean for Student Affairs Shirley McBry, and student government and activities representatives discussed at a dinner last night the possibility of funding the Undergraduate Association (UA) through a fee assessed 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 of Student Affairs (ODSA) to a student activity fee set by the UA. Under the proposed, tuition charges would be decreased to accommodate the transfer.

Ken Meltsner '83, UA Vice President, said he and UA President Ken Segel '83 would be against such a fee. Many students would be averse 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 disapprove the fee, leaving the UA without any budget, he suggested. "If we as students do not trust ourselves to run government efficiently," then voting down the UA budget is justified, contended Samuel Austin III '82, ASA President. He and Arnold Conners '83, ASA Treasurer, contended the activities fee would give the UA control over the size of its budget.

Professor Jeffrey Marks '85, Chairman of the Activities Development Board, suggested that if the UA leaders want a larger budget they ask the administration to boost tuition by a small amount to provide additional activity funding.

The General Assembly will consider at its next meeting a resolution requesting the UA activities and government budget

Questions One on the city ballot asks voters to authorize Cambridge to cut property taxes by only 7/10 percent in fiscal year 1981. A majority vote is required to pass the question.

Question Two, if approved by a 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 Counselor David Sullivan '74. Revenue losses for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1981, as a result of Proposition 21/2 took for profit by cutting of 400 employees from the city payroll, he said, and if voters reject today's referenda, 500 more layoffs -- including 54 firefighters and 35 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 added, "In a last three years we have a fairly direct effect on students" because of personnel cuts in the Police, Fire, and Rent Control departments.

MIT Musical Theatre Guild is in debt to Institute

By Laura Farber

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild (MTG) lost between $3,000 and $4,000 on its presentation of Tech Show '83 this month, according to MTG Treasurer Kenneth D. Corbett '84. The losses from Big Show will push the Guild's debt to MIT over $8,000.

Before Tech Show, MTG owed MIT approximately $6,500. Corbett 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. Corbett 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 Corbett 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," Corbett said. "The debt will be paid over the course of making money on our next shows."

Corbett 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.

DeCrow, Schlafly debate ERA at MIT

By Joe Killian

Phyllis Schlafly, founder and national chairperson of STOPERA, debated the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) before a packed audience in Kresge Auditorium yesterday evening.

"The only thing [ERA] will do," Schlafly maintained, "is to make every law at Federal and state levels completely neutral, and will give the total voice of power to the Federal government."

DeCrow contended, "The ERA amendment is needed more today than when it was first introduced to Congress in 1923 and finally passed in 1972. . . . There is no sound reason, legal or social, not to ratify the ERA." Eight hundred sections of Federal law are sexily discriminatory, the claimed.

ERA lacks popular support, Schlafly claimed. "The ERA, with ten years, millions of dollars, and the support of all the politicians in the country, couldn't make it because it was rejected by the American people," she declared.

DeCrow disagreed, contending

Cambridge Street fire damages laboratory

By Robert E. Maltman

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

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

Two MTG students win $20,000 scholarships

Two MIT students win $20,000 scholarships.

Inside

Gonna get me a guitar -
Jh. synthesizer - and start me a band.

Two MIT students win $20,000 scholarships.

And the winner is...

Big Screw Results are in

News Roundup

Blaise Edmonds and William Shakespeare together at last.

Two MIT students win $20,000 scholarships.