MIT withholds Oxfam money

By Paul Duchnowski

The MIT Meal Plan Office will allow students to donate up to six meals each to Oxfam America, but will retain part of the meals' value, according to the Student Center Committee, which coordinates the dining and residence programs in the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.

The office will contribute only the difference of the commons points corresponding to food costs, said Greene '83, the chair of the committee, which will retain the operational cost.

The Institute will contribute 41 cents per commons point to Oxfam, according to George E. Hartwell, associate director of housing and food services. It contributed 84 cents last year.

Commons points cost $2.21, but those purchasing 100 points may buy additional points at $1.27 each, corresponding to the cost of the food which the point would buy.

The MIT Hunger Action Group is sponsoring the 10th annual Oxfam America fast, to be held Thursday, according to Rick Bogart, public relations director of the group.

The group will give the money it raises to Oxfam America, "a non-profit international agency which funds self-help development programs in Asia, Africa, and Latin America," as described in one of its pamphlets.

The Hunger Action Group last year opened a booth in Lobby 10 to distribute information and collect contributions from members of the MIT community.

The group is sponsoring lectures this week to educate the community about the problem of hunger, its causes and possible solutions, Bogart said.

This year's theme is "Women in Development," he said. Many of the speakers, he said, will also focus on hunger problems in Boston and Massachusetts.

Families will voluntarily give up a meal or more and donate the money saved to the program.

"Most of us have never been hungry," he said. "Through the fast we can at least symbolically identify ourselves with those struggling and understand their plight."

Groups hurt by benefit charge

(Kosher Kitchen, continued from page 11)

Kosher Kitchen, said the group will be charged $1500 a year. It received two to three students and "benefit charge will hurt us," she said. "We're already running under a deficit," she said.

"I was informed of the charge," said the MIT administration.

"The first time I saw the charge was when I saw the little T.R. on our monthly statement in August," she said. "I went to the accounting office and the pay office, and four people thought it was an error. They didn't even know about the benefit charge."

Kosher Kitchen is "currently in debt, so I don't think we'll be able to pay the benefit charge," she said.

Representatives of the Thrity-Four Pub could not be reached for comment.