Athena: accounts in 1985

By Andrew Bein

Third in a series examining Project Athena

A professor who wishes to get an account in Project Athena must fill out a form for the spring term, according to Steven R. Lerman, the dean of students for Project Athena. These accounts will be based in a network of computers throughout the Student Center Library. "We made the announcement at a project forum yesterday. "One of the potentially interesting parts of the system includes Project Athena's ability to work with the Student Center Library," he said.

News Analysis
Alcohol is a US campus

By Thomas I. Hough

The recent use of alcohol at the campus has sparked much debate on US college campuses. MIT is no exception: administration and students alike have been considering the role of alcohol in Rush Week and Spring Weekend.

MIT's study of alcohol use has only begun. Last May, MIT gave out a bill to handle alcohol abuse. Undergraduates who drink more than President David M. Libby '85 said that the bill was "the most important action of the Students Affairs was beginning to take a "more active role" in combating excessive alcohol consumption.

The same month, the Chemistry Department reported that most colleges have alcohol education programs, but most are ineffective. But lost highway taxes are not the only reason for raising the drinking age. There are other reasons.

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The link between the drinking age and traffic deaths is lost in a haze of statistics. Two researchers at the School of Behavioral Science at Boston University found a 28 percent drop in automobile traffic crashes in nine states which raised their drinking age to 21.

But highway taxes are not the sole reason for raising the drinking age. A higher drinking age would supposedly result in fewer traffic fatalities. The problem arose, however, when not all of the seats were filled. While tickets to New York were sold out, Lamont explained, buses for the return trip to Boston were only 80 percent to 90 percent full.

TCA advertised the trip through slides shown at Lecture Series Committee movies and by distributing flyers at campus dormitories.

According to TCA President Susan Lau '87, the group intends to continue running the Thanksgiving holiday weekend bus because of the Technology Community Association's $117 this year, according to TCA member and bus trip organizer Elaine M. Hansen '97.

Four buses, each capable of carrying 49 passengers, were hired for the trip. Round trip tickets were sold at a price of $26 apiece, and one-way tickets were each $11. The trip planners originally assumed that silent prayers were "enough to break even," Lamont said.

The problem arose, however, because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend bus case of the MIT library system. "The library system is now the process of installing a computerized information system and card catalog," he said.

"We plan to make those services available," said one of the leaders of the group.

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Dr. Harold E. "Doc" Edgerton '27, the magical man of strobe, demonstrated his famous water drop display during Tuesday night's lecture on the history of the strobe.

The lecture was an "update of where current technologies like the strobe are going," he said. Under the project, Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) is providing machines principally for the School of Engineering, while International Business Machine (IBM) Corp. is doing the same for the four other schools.

Project Athena "will be getting 16 IBM PC ATs. And the model I'm in IBM's popular personal computer series by spring term, which will be networked together," said Lerman. "The Student Center Library will be [the] major server, and terminal rooms in Buildings 2, 4, and 6 will also resemble the machines," he said.

Lerman cited MIT student success stories like the development of video games and the EMACS word processing system, as justification for allowing free independent programming at the Student Center Library.

"If a student invents something ... he owns it, but formal business matters have to be handled," he said.

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