MIT replaces Alexander’s

By Betty McLaughlin

Alexander’s Restaurant, formerly at 254 Main Street in Kendall Square, lost its lease on the MIT Real Estate Office. The restaurant closed Oct. 18 amid complaints by owner William McLaughlin that he got “a raw deal.”

In place of Alexander’s, Au Bon Pain will open its doors sometime early in 1986, according to MIT Director of Real Estate Phillip A. Truesdell. The exact date hasn’t been set.

McLaughlin’s lease expired at the end of June. The Institute then chose to solicit bids for rental of the property from him and several other food vendors, according to the director. Alexander’s Restaurant, formerly at 254 Main Street in Kendall Square, lost its lease on the MIT Real Estate Office. The restaurant closed Oct. 18 amid complaints by owner William McLaughlin that he got “a raw deal.”

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Caltech admissions study
27 improvements in policy

By Robert E. Melchman

Pasadena, Calif. — The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) faculty Ad Hoc Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures made 27 recommendations to improve the school’s ability to attract new students.

The committee’s report identified Caltech’s visibility for student recruitment as the school’s single most important and factor in student attraction.

The committee recommended that Caltech make itself more visible to high school students from all areas.

They would include:

* Targeting of major science schools. Steps include:
  * Creating a fall “road show” for a night in a hotel banquet hall in major cities to meet parents, students and teachers in the area.
  * Targeting of major high schools in the area.
  * Giving the director of admissions administrative responsibility for that area and the recruitment of the secondary schools committee.
  * Extension and improvement of internship programs in high schools, perhaps expanding the Summer Science Program to include an internship program.
  * Targeting of students with specific scientific interests.
  * Making Caltech stronger, not only in Caltech’s strong but underpopulated majors, such as biology, chemistry and geology.
  * Considering offering prospective freshmen prize fellowships at other area schools.

Steps include:

* Collection of an Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee to examine ways to reduce student pressure and the curriculum’s inflexibility.

* Preparation of a brochure on humanities and social sciences offerings and its distinguished faculty to offset Caltech’s “weak” image in that area.

* Emphasis in the literature of Caltech’s small size, intimacy, flexibility and honor society.

* Consideration of a shuttle service to schools with cultural and humanistic offerings that Caltech cannot provide itself.

* Expansion of the 3-2 engineering/ humanities double degree program with other schools, and consideration of the possibility of extending the program to scientific areas.

Selection improvements

The committee recommended reviewing the admissions process, including:

* Development of Faculty Admissions Committee (FAC) criteria for admissions which it would use.

* More than one reader per application.

* Consideration of a personal rating for non-academic interests, the promotion of greater diversity among the entering freshman, and greater emphasis on academic excellence.

* Making a special effort to attract and keep underpopulated majors, and among women and minorities.

* Development of a committee on undergraduate performance for the faculty of assessing student performance and writing a report to aid the FAC in the formation of its guidelines.

* Provision in the Student Affairs Office for statistics and mailing charged with collecting data on students and issuing statistical reports.

Yield enhancement

To increase the number of accepted students who choose to enter Caltech, the committee added:

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