In one of the recent changes at Loddbeld Court, the grill was renamed Leghorn's. At press time, Leghorn could not be reached for comment.

Use of house tax probed

By Chris Schechter

The issue of spending dormitory house tax on alcohol was raised by the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life at an open forum last Tuesday.

The meeting followed a survey, conducted by the Undergraduate Association Committee on Registration (UACR) of the 500 people who answered the survey. 43 percent responded that they were against using dormitory funds for alcohol. Over half of the others who responded disapproved of spending a large proportion of house taxes on alcohol.

The committee has been wrestling with the issue of undergraduate students paying a house tax, which when it becomes part of a house social fund, is often spent on alcohol.

Several alternatives to spending dormitory funds on alcohol were discussed at the meeting. The possibilities ranged from the staus quo of using house taxes to purchase alcohol, to not spending dormitory funds on alcohol, to separating house funds for alcohol purchases.

The issue was raised by a large number of students who voiced their concern with the situation. "The thrust behind our efforts is coming from the concern expressed over and over again by the students who don't take a choice," said an undergraduate who didn't want to be identified. "This is the Fisk Kirby '92 chair of the Committee on Student Life.

The committee will submit a set of recommendations to James R. Towsley, associate dean for student affairs, by the end of March. The dean made it clear that he would take the students' input into account before he makes any decision on the alcohol policy, according to the committee chair.

Most of the committee is made up of students; other members include William B. Watson, Baker Hall head; Robert H. Culliton, Beaconsfield House, and Sylvia S. Leveque, G, a floor tutor in Baker House. Andrew M. Eisen, assistant dean for student affairs and Neal H. Doros, advisor to fraternity and independent living groups.

Due to the low turnout at the forum, most of the student input so far has been restricted to the results of the forum. The committee judged the poll's 15 percent response rate to be good.

The options debated at the forum ranged from not spending any house tax funds on alcohol to having over 31 students regulate underage drinking in the dorms. Although the committee's goal is to achieve a student-based policy, the latter option was rejected by Watson based on past experience.

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Mass. law change delays UA shuttle

By Britt Rosenburg

The start-up of the Undergraduate Association safety shuttle has been delayed by a complication in the procedure for hiring a driver, according to Judith L. Yanover '91, co-chair of the UA's Campus Safety Committee.

Last year, the committee stipulated that the shuttle driver not have a criminal record of any kind, Yanover said. In order to verify this, a background check of each applicant is necessary. But in 1991, Massachusetts law changed the way potential employees could conduct such checks, she explained.

"The change in the law meant that MIT had to change its hiring procedures," Yanover said. "That change delayed the posting of the advertisements for drivers until about two weeks ago."

The UA plan to hire two drivers, Yanover said.

Kelly L. Sipkin '92, a member of the safety committee, said there was also a delay in buying a van. The group spent $8,000 on a van, according to the Department of Housing and Food Services; according to Yanover, money for different aspects of the shuttle services will be

of the required plan would cost $1000, $800 of which must be spent on common dining and $200 on alcohol, which could be spent at dinner only. This meal plan would not cover the dining halls.

The survey asked dormitory residents if they would prefer to have dormitory dining halls remaining open under the terms of the MIT food services plan or if they would rather have the dining halls closed.

In Baker, approximately 90 percent of students who responded said they would rather close down the dining hall, according to the Baker representative to the UA Food Service Committee Andrew E. Bloch '91. A student who responded said, "It's totally ridiculous, and if I'm forced to eat from this menu, I'll move out.

Another student said, "As an ache, I don't want to be re-quired to eat a meal that I can't fit into my schedule."

Other students stated that the MIT meal plan discouraged the MIT food service from making edible meals and providing reasonably priced service, while other students raised questions of whether Lodberry Court currently had the facilities to handle the incremental numbers of dines.

Both MacGregor UA Food Service representative Jay M. Goodliff '92 and Next House representative Seth M. Cohem '92 were reluctant to give the exact results of their surveys.

However, both said that their results were very similar both in terms of figures and student concern to the Baker survey.

NIS may study MIT overhead

By Dave Watt

Federal investigators have charged that some universities are spending too much of their federal research money on overhead, according to Harvard Medical School.

A criminal investigation at Stanford University conducted by the Naval Investigative Service has uncovered cases of misman-agement of federal money. Those findings have prompted audits of universities, including Harvard Medical School.

Several newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle, have mentioned that MIT is like-ly to be a target of federal investigations by the NIS, citing congressional aids. However, James J. Culliton, vice president for financial operations, said he is hopeful that MIT will not be a target of the NIS investigations.

Federal investigators found that Stanford had used federal research money to deprecate the purchase of a yacht and for athletic equipment, flowers and antiques, according to the Chronicle. The NIS is rumored to have asked Stanford to forgo overhead charges on items totaling at least $6000 to repay the money.

"I think we're in a good posi-tion. . . . The General Accounting Office has had intensive audits of federal research money, so they are not going to be looking too hard at MIT," Culliton said, according to the Chronicle. "Stanford's problems have received widespread attention in West Coast media, and we have led Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI) to announce plans to hold congres-sional hearings on Stanford's overhead charges.

University administrators around the country are watching with anxious interest, however, as Stanford, which has been a model for cost contain-ment, faces a similar probe. Some administrators believe that the federal government will be more aggressive this year, according to the Chronicle.

In another development, MIT professors spend $47,000 a year on antiques, according to the Chronicle. The program is the rea-son for Stanford's problems have part-ly been publicized.

The Chronicle has found that the Federal Cornell, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Chicago University have not been able to explain their research overhead charges at MIT.

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