Similar Housing Shift Proposal Shot Down Fourteen Years Ago

By Hyun Soo Kim

The Strategic Housing Planning Committee's discussion concerning the renovation of east campus dormitories for graduate student use is not a new idea. In May 1980, the administration announced a plan to switch Senior House and East Campus residents to Ashdown House residents ["Administration to Consider Housing Shift," March 18, 1980].

Suggested by the then-Dean of the Graduate School Kenneth R. Wadleigh "in response to a housing shortage for graduate students," the 1980 plan included elements similar to the current plan being considered by the committee. Undergraduates in Senior House and East Campus would move into Ashdown and the soon-to-be-completed Next House. Walker Memorial would also be renovated as a graduate student center. Wadleigh said that the idea of an east campus graduate student center "has been on the docket since 1957."

The 1980 administration aired the proposal to the MIT community before making any decisions. The Corporation was to have the final say because of the substantial costs of the renovation.

However, the Undergraduate Association president at the time complimented that he and the Dormitory Council had not been consulted before the announcement of the proposal. Residents of Senior House and East Campus strongly opposed the proposal.

In May 15, 1980, the administration withdrew the proposal, calling it a "pre-proposal." Preservation of house identities and lifestyles and the need for further study were the main reasons cited by the administration.

The housing administrators also said that they needed to dispel the considerable animosity and mistrust between the administration and students that the proposal raised.

Student Injured at Skating Rink

By Sarah Y. Nightley

As an accident at the Johnson Athletic Center skating rink Saturday night resulted in the rink being closed for about half an hour.

Jason Teller '98 was skating at the rink during the general skating time, and around 8:30 p.m. he fell, hit his head, and went into a seizure.

"My friends were really supportive, and I was impressed. Without my friends not laughing and harassing people to give money, the contest wouldn't have gone that smoothly," Sparvero said.

Contestants enjoyed UMOC.

After Schwarz figured that he should let the campus acknowledge his appearance, he entered the UMOC contest. Schwarz said, "I was very aggressive and did everything that I could to enhance my natural ugliness."

Schwarz's costume included taped-up glasses, a pillow stuffed in the back of his shirt to make it seem like a hunchback, and a trench coat with a stapled pocket protector.

Schwarz said that he also sang annoying songs repetitively until he was paid.

"I know that I am going to enter again next year because it is the most preposterous thing that the campus would think that there is something ugly than me," Schwarz said.

Unlike Sparvero and Schwarz, Scott D. Centurino '98, the third place contestant, chose to run an electronic-mail campaign because of a lack of time.

"I sent annoying e-mail messages to everyone I knew telling them to vote for me. And it seems that it worked pretty well," Centurino said.

I think that the best thing about UMOC is that you can't ever take yourself too seriously. I feel sorry for anyone who ever tries to tell me up on a blind date because all they can say is that I have a good personality," Sparvero said.

"The most fun that I had was hanging out at the booth watching Stephanie do her skits. She really captured the spirit of UMOC." Centurino said.

"It was a fun week. It is five extra days of Halloween a year," said Matthew N. Condell '96, the fifth place UMOC winner.

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