Ashdown House.

Much has been said against opposition to this plan on the part of graduate residents of East Campus, but one point of view which seems not to have yet been expressed is that of the graduate students affected by this plan.

As a resident of Ashdown House, I, like many others who live there, do not like the idea of Ashdown being converted to an undergraduate dormitory. It may seem that Ashdown is not suited for graduate housing, or that graduate students would prefer to live in a different kind of residence, but in fact there are many graduate students who choose to live in Ashdown because of the sense of community which can be found there, and which is unique in an undergraduate dormitory.

The Ashdown community exists partly because of the housing style. Because people share kitchens and common living areas, there are many opportunities to get to know fellow residents. There is also an active student leadership in the dormitory, which organizes many activities for residents. In addition, there are events organized by housemaster Vernon Ingram and his wife which add to the feeling of community.

Moving undergraduate residents to Ashdown House would not only affect the lives of those undergraduates, it would also affect the many graduate students who currently live in Ashdown, as well as those who will hopefully live there in the future. This plan has the potential to destroy a community which has an important impact on the experiences of many MIT graduate students.

Jennifer A. Sullivan
Graduate Student Council

GSC Feels Ashdown Plans Deserve Graduate Input

We were quite concerned to read the article and editorial on the housing situation in The Tech ("Dreams Consider Moving All Undergrads To West Dorms," and "Housing Plan Deserves Student Input," Nov. 13) as they reflect a larger problem in MIT's handling of the long-term housing situation. There appears to be a lack of concern for the impact of any housing changes on graduate student life at MIT.

As The Tech coverage mentioned, undergraduates are upset because of the tradition that would be lost if the residents of East Campus and Senior House were moved to west campus. Yet it was never mentioned that the building they would move into, Ashdown House, is the oldest graduate housing facility on campus. When the graduate students are relocated to points unknown, there too will be a loss of tradition.

Ashdown House has a culture which is currently not replicated in any other place on campus. It is the only housing option that offers dormitory-style living to graduate students at MIT. In addition, it is the only graduate housing facility that is centrally located on campus. Although it is believed that any displaced graduate students will be relocated within 2 miles of campus, this does not guarantee that the new residence will be as convenient as Ashdown. Both the dormitory-style living and location represent housing features which are very important to the current and alumni graduate students who have called Ashdown home.

As is so often the case, we acknowledge that any change involves some degree of pain and loss. However, we also recognize that sometimes change, albeit inconvenient, is necessary for the greater good. After careful consideration, one might conclude that Ashdown House should be transformed into an undergraduate dormitory. Graduate students could potentially benefit from a new facility. If a change of location is deemed best, it is important that the attractive features of Ashdown are incorporated into whatever facilities are built or renovated.

Furthermore, we believe that it is important that the needs and views of graduate students be included in this decision-making process, and that they are not treated as second or third order effects.

In the very near future, the Graduate Student Council will be distributing a survey to all graduate students living on campus to determine the housing needs of graduate students. We strongly encourage students to respond to the survey, and also that the decision-makers in the administration incorporate the results into the process.

Roger G. Kermode
President, Graduate Student Council
Susan L. Jepi
Secretary, Graduate Student Council
Joseph J. Bambeneck
Housing and Community Affairs Committee

East Side Student Committee Should Work With Ashdown

One thing not discussed in the two articles in The Tech ("Dreams Consider Moving All Undergrads To West Dorms," Nov. 1, "EC, Senior House Residents Meet to Discuss Housing," Nov. 4) was how the graduate students of Ashdown House feel about turning Ashdown into an undergraduate dormitory (either partially or completely).

Most residents of Ashdown that I have talked to are against the idea because it would begin the process of disrupting a graduate community that has existed for over 75 years. In comparison to Tang and Edgerton House, Ashdown is the most social graduate dorm. Many residents like living there because of the social atmosphere and would not like to see this aspect of the dorm destroyed. Ashdown residents urge the committee that is making these decisions to discuss their proposals with Ashdown residents before making any recommendations.

Thomas H. Burbine
Ashdown Chairperson

M.I.T.
The Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar
Prepares
The Tenth Anniversary Lecture
by
Dr. Riad Tabbara
Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States

"The Political Reconstruction of Lebanon"

Tuesday, November 15, 1994
4:30-6:30 pm

E51-004
70 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by the Center for International Studies

WHEN DRINKING, CALL A FRIEND.

OR GET A RIDE WITH A STRANGER.

This space donated by The Tech

STUDENT TRAVEL

London ....................... 6418
Paris.......................... 528
Mexico City ................. 294
Caracas .................... 623
Tokyo ....................... 839
Buenos Aires .......... 1058
Sydney ..................... 1269

FOR SALE

65 MIT, AUBURN ST.
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
617-876-4623

M.I.T.
The Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar
Prepares
The Tenth Anniversary Lecture
by
Dr. Riad Tabbara
Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States

"The Political Reconstruction of Lebanon"

Tuesday, November 15, 1994
4:30-6:30 pm

E51-004
70 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by the Center for International Studies