Letters, from Page 4

Earlier Letter Decrying Crime Not Meant to Offend

I am sorry if I offended anyone in my letter to The Tech ["Assassins and Their Destroyer Sense of MIT Community," Jan. 11]. Considering at least one person’s view, I was probably not trying to sound racist. My article was simply my opinions in response to the recent fear that has been going on in Mather House and Burton-Conner House.

A snowstorm is coming tomorrow, but I don’t like my home being burned up. I have to go to sleep at night just like everyone else, and what am I supposed to do if my dormitory is on fire? Am I supposed to go out in search of a safe place to stay? I cannot be waiting for someone, don’t believe them. The record shows they have opened. The weekend began with our first real taste of winter — four inches of softly falling snow. Twenty-four hours and 50 minutes later at MIT.

Contrary to at least one person’s view, I was greatly apologize. I am sorry if I offended anyone in my letter before. I am sorry that MIT will duplicate the Ashdown environment. I am sorry that MIT has made in the past. I am sorry that MIT will fail to impose its views on us. The proposal as it stands now requires that the MIT administration sit down with us to come up with a solution that is beneficial to both the undergraduates and graduates and not just impose its views on us. The proposal as it now stands is not the right way to handle the student population of MIT for many years to come.

To alleviate our concerns, we propose that (1) Ashdown residents be allowed to meet with President Charles M. Vest, or Provost Mark S. Wrightson, and Senior Vice President William R. Dickson to express our concerns on the proposal. (2) To keep Ashdown residents from being forcibly removed from Ashdown, (3) to only minimal reductions in the number of spaces for graduate students in MIT housing occur during any moving process, and (4) Ashdown residents be allowed to take part in the decision-making process concerning the fate of Ashdown and the construction of a new graduate dorm or dorms.

Thomas H. Barbieri '97 is the Chair of the Ashdown House Executive Committee.

Housing Recommendations Hurt Ashdown Community

Not only is the new dormitory a relatively safe and short commute to labs and libraries located at the corner of Sidney and Pacif-ic Drive, and the possibility of moving out Ash- down, the loss of approximately four thou-sand residents would not be completed (at the earliest) by the fall of 1997. Since approximately 30 percent of all graduate students live on-campus in Ashdown, the loss of approximately four hun-dred beds would have large numbers of grad- uate students without a place to live on cam-pus for at least one year. Many students may choose not to attend MIT because they will not be guaranteed housing and instead will go to schools that have housing readily available. We also believe that the areas between Central Square and MIT (such as the University Park area) will become more dangerous in the next few years as more buildings are built in that area and in the community.

Robert M. Kagan, a New Hampshire native: Don’t put those sweaters back in the trunk just yet. With any luck for winter-lovers like myself, you will soon have reason to use them.

By Daniel J. Dunn
class of 1997

These past few days have brought us some spectacular weather. Who before has seen a 40 mph wind, snow flurries, and freezing temperature without any one saying that it's cold? No one, that's why the students living in Ashdown are being sacrificed for the sake of the undergraduates. It is being said that they are either too far away or have no security on Ashdown. To correct this, MIT can take a piece of property on Ashdown that is being used for more athletic classes which have taken spots south of the Massachusetts Avenue line to prepare for the coming spring season? They usually return bronch and over-eager to compare weather stories. Cold weather is just a temporary situation. We have seen just one last snowstorm — yes, all accounts, the most miserable winter I can remember. Now, most of those men living home this Independence Day Period just to avoid the onslaught. Those who did return walk around campus bound up in hat, muffler, heavy coat and boots. You have the urge to tell them it is safe to come out, just for a few weeks. But back at you, with a case red face, the other accli-mating the sky for the blizz-ard, they know it is out there, somewhere. But don’t get me wrong. Do not count me among those with a half grin, walking around with an ‘I’ve been through this before’ attitude. I’m just hoping it will hold off long enough. We all know MIT will make it a safer neighborhood. It is also very possible we believe MIT to have made it a safer neighborhood.

Jeffrey Price '97

Spring Today, Gone Tomorrow, Here Comes the Winter

Guest Columns by Thomas H. Barbieri

Overwhelmingly Ashdown House’s gradu-ate residents feel that if the proposals of the Student Housing Committee (SHC) in their final report are carried out, Ashdown’s friendly and active community will be destroyed by forcing students to reside in and locating them in a desolate area of Cambridge. We believe that the areas between Central Square and MIT should be looked at and discussed with students living in Ashdown.

I have heard many residents say that living in Ashdown “has enhanced their time at MIT” and that MIT will duplicate the Ashdown environ-ment in the new graduate dorm. Both Tang and Edgerton were built after Ashdown and are located near an area that is far from campus and nowhere as social as Ashdown. The Central Square Drive, and the possibility of moving out Ashdown residents have very little faith that MIT will duplicate the Ashdown environment in the new graduate dorm, which will only add to the sense of isolation. The central entrance gives residents a place to meet and socialize while entering and exiting the dorm. The security problems of living closer to MIT. The possibility of moving out Ashdown residents are under the impression that the area could become more dangerous in the next few years.

To alleviate our concerns, we propose that (1) Ashdown residents be allowed to meet with President Charles M. Vest, or Provost Mark S. Wrightson, and Senior Vice President William R. Dickson to express our concerns on the proposal. (2) To keep Ashdown residents from being forcibly removed from Ashdown, (3) to only minimal reductions in the number of spaces for graduate students in MIT housing occur during any moving process, and (4) Ashdown residents be allowed to take part in the decision-making process concerning the fate of Ashdown and the construction of a new graduate dorm or dorms.

Thomas H. Barbieri '97 is the Chair of the Ashdown House Executive Committee.

"I’ve got a load of welfare mothers, old folks an’ such. Where do you want ’em?"