MIT to develop Simplex property

By Bob Dennis

Wadleigh's presentation was largely based on a recently-completed report by the Simplex Advisory Committee, a nine-member group of faculty and administration whose main task was to recommend means of developing the nineteen-acre site north of West Campus that the Institute agreed to purchase last July.

The original rules for development called for about half the site to be sold to a commercial or industrial organization in order to add to city tax revenues, provide added employment opportunities over a broad range of skills, and hopefully reduce the net cost of the remaining land to permit residential construction at moderate densities.

Most of the remaining property would be developed commercially for taxable residences for MIT faculty and other Institute personnel, thus reducing pressures on the existing Cambridge housing stock. No part of the site would be used for tax-exempt academic or research expansion.

The Advisory Committee has been meeting regularly since October and developing broad planning criteria from which specific implementation plans may be drawn. The committee hopes to complete its recommendations this month and propose a plan of implementation.

In its report, the Committee notes that the Simplex property is presently "the only land resource available to MIT with the acreage and development capacity to absorb a large quantity of the additional housing required for faculty and staff."

Such housing for MIT personnel would allow Cambridge to benefit from MIT's purchase of the property. Under Section 112 of the US Housing Act of 1949, the city would acquire credits which it could use to acquire federal financing for certain urban renewal projects in East Cambridge.

Other economic factors which must be considered are the costs to the city of providing services to the Simplex redevelopment, and whether the proposed development would be consistent with the city's plans to revitalize Central Square. In addition, the long-run implications of the development must be considered in light of the apparent trend of industry to leave that area of Cambridge.

The intention is the commercial development provide employment over a wide range of skills is consistent with the Institute's expressed policy of maintaining Cambridge as a city of mixed economic character.

The Committee declared a preference for a mix of small commercial activities on the site, including such possible concerns as small office space, retail, research, light manufacturing, and higher density residential development.

Regardless of the specific development that occurs, the Committee concluded that "the Institute should favor prospective commercial developers who indicate a willingness to cooperate with both MIT and the city in terms of achieving the social and environmental objectives of this area in addition to the economic objectives."

RCA

On Campus Interviews for Engineering Rotational Programs or Direct Assignments

February 25 & 26

BS and MS candidates in Engineering: Interview RCA, on campus, for our Engineering Rotational Programs, Manufacturing Management Development Program or Direct Assignments in the area of your skills. Openings are in Research, Design, Development, Manufacturing Engineering, or Materials Management.

See your placement officer to arrange an interview with the RCA Representative. Or write to RCA College Relations, Dept. ERP, Building 205, Camden, New Jersey 08101. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Which One is the Paulist?

It's easy to tell a Paulist. Just talk with him.

The first thing you notice is that he's contemporary. He lives today, but plans tomorrow with the experience and knowledge of yesterday. That's a Paulist characteristic: the ability to move with the times and to meet the challenges of each era.

A Paulist is also the mediator of his age: he tries to bring together the extremes in today's world and the Church, the liberals and the moderates, the eternal and the temporal.

Next, he is very much an individual. It sets him apart immediately. He has his own particular talents and abilities - and he is given freedom to use them.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Paulist difference in the priesthood, ask for our brochure and a copy of our recent Renewal Chapter Guidelines.

Write to:

Vocation Director

Paulist Fathers

Room 300

415 West 37th Street

New York, N.Y. 10018