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Students meet to plan Nader-type research

By Lee Giguere

Socially-conscious research is the aim of a group of students who are organizing themselves to gather information for use by people in need of technical advice.

Most of the students, especially the undergraduates, will be doing library research in an effort to gather already published data and collect it into useful forms.

Individual students will be responsible for the use to which their work will be put. Don Lombardi of the Education Research Center, who is serving as coordinator, explained that the group will not act as an information bank, but instead will try to bring together "the people at MIT who know or would like to find out about" certain technical problems, and people outside MIT who need information to help them write laws, initiate reforms, and use as testimony in hearings.

Politics of change

Lombardi hopes this project will get the students to think hard about the politics of change. The group's formation was inspired by Nader's Raiders, groups of students who worked for Ralph Nader over the summer to provide him with information for his work on behalf of consumers. Bob Tinker, who had met several of these students while he was a M.I.T. STUDENT LIFE CHURCH

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important part in setting up the group at MIT. A meeting held February 11 served to bring together people at MIT who are interested in doing this sort of research.

Counterbalance Lobbyists

Lombardi, noting that most state legislators do not have much staff assistance, hoped that a "group of concerned people at MIT who are competent could provide indispensable research," which would counterbalance the influence of the lobbyists on whom most legislation depends for their information. While he feels that the most obvious way to put information to use is through lobbyists, Lombardi emphasized that each researcher will have to decide on the most effective way to get the kind of reform he wants accomplished.

ANALYSIS...

(Continued from page 6)