By Joe Kashi

Dozentment of the Draper Labs with MIT has been postponed due to severe financial problems facing both the Institute and the labs as a result of a spin-off.

MIT would lose an estimated $400,000 per year for the next four years if the labs divested this spring. The shortfall would result from loss of D-Lab payments toward the fixed overhead costs of running MIT services and maintaining the physical plant.

MIT operates with a unitary budget system under which each division of the school is included in a centralized budget and is charged for a share of the overhead. During the present year, MIT projects to contribute about $9.5 million to the over- head, with only $5.5 million going directly to services used by the labs. Under new budget policy, an interest rate of 49% is charged on all of the money that students and faculty have contributed to pay these assessments.

The Draper Labs will face a difficult period whether or not they divest, but their fiscal situation has deteriorated so recently that it is difficult to predict its viability as a private corporation. Both MIT comptroller Paul Taylor and Charles Miller, a member of the Board of Trustees and manager of the labs, said that poor economic conditions have changed the labs' financial picture since last spring. At that time, President Howard Johnson proposed a target of making the labs an independent corporation by 1982. The labs would then become a separate division of MIT, facing both the Institute and the labs themselves.

Johnson, several sources stated, was committed to keeping the three-year-loss to 10 million dollars. By the time the labs become a separate division, present, Lincoln Labs pays MIT about 3.5 million dollars per year in overhead costs.

Miller said that the Draper Labs would have to raise the necessary operating capital this year. New contracts were not forthcoming, investment opportunities have been curtailed, and the labs would face difficulty raising such a small new company. However, he added, there is a possibility of divesting the labs as a non-profit corporation, allowing them to qualify for capital advances from the federal government.

One of the biggest problems of the divestment plans will be the retention of key talent. Jobs may be offered to individuals, and the unattractedness of investigators in the aerospace and electronics industries. During the year following the Pounds Panel report, there were several offers to leave, and labs' basic research in the last three months there have been no new offers.

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Computers run new library

By Curtis Reeves

MIT has received a grant of $400,000 from the Council on Library Resources (CLR) for the operation of an experimental computer library system. The setup will be housed in the main library and is being financed by both public and private sources.

The project is known as the Information Transfer Experiment (INTEX).

He explained that the project was not directed toward putting together such a system at MIT, but instead to find out about its practicality in terms of the user's ability to get information quickly.

INTEX uses a console consisting of an electric type writer keyboard, a cathode ray display tube, and an electric control panel as the base from which the fact-finder works.

The system would serve two basic functions. First, the type writer, with its hook-up to an IBM 7904 computer, acts as a fact-finding tool which tells the user what documents are available which are relevant to his subject. The computer, which is operated by the Information Processing Board, acts as a command center for the facts.

The user engages in a dialogue with the computer, which will expand the range of documents until he has those that will best serve his needs. The typical user, according to the computer first must choose from twenty subjects the projects on which to work with industrial companies, Vatica, or other groups, or work on campus.

Different from conference

Although the projects will (Please turn to page 3-A)

Such student demonstrations as this one last fall raised the issue of the appropriateness of maintaining large, defense-oriented special projects. Such force MIT to retain the Draper Labs for another two or three years.

I curricula were too standardized said, the engineering and science News, student newspaper of Sloan student body. The management has approached issues gradually, beginning with the new instructors and new teaching assistants. The students involved were kept secret by MIT. The department was not aware of the plan to eliminate the teaching assistants into the building in small groups.

Sacile charges

The situation was another in a series of developments following charges of racism against the Sloan Management and demands for higher wages for three black workers employed for building maintenance. The MIT Sloan first took a public stance in response to the incident, voicing its desire to submit the report to the Sloan Management and make public the findings of its fact-finding committee.

The action was not taken in response to any specific complaint, but is part of the Sloan's continuing effort to respond to charges of racism against the department. The Sloan Management has not responded to the incident.

No violence

There were no reports of either breaking of windows or fighting. After roughly 90 minutes of discussion with the few people present, the group dispersed voluntarily, claiming success in their efforts to stop the party.

There has been no decision made about what the students will do, whether the students involved will be charged before the Sloan Management. Senior administrators would say only that judicial proceedings were being "considered."

Two or three dozen MITSIDS members attended to support the MIT Sloan dormitory meeting Tuesday afternoon in the B-1 lounge area of Sloan System. The SDS members never made it to the sixth floor dining area.

WPI charts bold reforms

By DuBois McRoberts

The release of a new report by MIT's Commission on their report is imminent, and the recom- mendeens made will prompt many discussions in the Institute community to examine the future of MIT as a technological university.

Fifty miles away, the West Virginia Polytechnic Institute has thoroughly overhauled its own "learning program." An example of the "WPI plan" may provide a way of how another technical university has approached issues similar to those at MIT.

Glen White, editor of WPI's student newspaper, The Tech, noted that "there were students who came in here as engineers or something, but there was a time they were just students. Now they have a different identity. WPI is not the school's old way of operating, he said, the engineering and science programs have been expanded. The students' Union is now an equal partner.

All specific course requirements are listed in the outline of the plan. Students are free to work out their programs individually, or with a faculty advisor. A separate independent study course may cover areas of peripheral interest to a student's major interest, and is graded as parts of largely "irrel- evant" areas.

For new offices

grades, a new grading system will include only the categories of pass, high pass, and fail. Students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination in their major field after three years of study.

White related that many at WPI believe in standard engineering education to the point that it is too narrow and too exclusive of the humanities. The point has been raised that eliminating humanities requirements from the rules may not be a way of correcting the deficiency. The solution to this problem, it was decided, may be provided by what is perhaps the central feature of the "WPI plan": the "study project" idea. Students will be required to choose one-quarter of their time on two intensive study projects involving independent research. The projects will be tested to twenty students. The projects will be chosen from work with industrial companies, Vatica, or other groups, or work on campus.

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