MIT begins IAP planning

By Walter Middlebrook

Preparations are now underway for the second Independent Activities Period (IAP) to be observed at MIT, announces Mr. Joel Orten, Assistant to the Provost and Chairman of the IAP Planning and Coordinating Committee. With a small fund of money available and a list of enthusiastic MIT people to work with, Mr. Orten feels that this year's IAP could be as much a success as last year's.

According to, Orten, his office, as well as the offices of individual department coordinators, is open to suggestions from students as to what type of activities they'd like to see held. From these suggestions the IAP Planning and Coordinating Committee can plan the best cooperative use of available resources and provide channels of information to all students and faculty. He asks that plans for the IAP be submitted as soon as possible and be well enough defined so that each person can choose among the greatest number of available opportunities.

Although the IAP is a new idea to MIT, it is continually expanding. With the uncertainty of last year removed, and because of the apparent success of the program initiated last year, Mr. Orten feels the climate of preparation this year will be eased more, now that everyone has some idea as to what is going on.

In addition to this better climate, Mr. Orten points out that more money has been appropriated for the IAP this year; the amount was increased from $2,000 to $10,000 from last year. It seems that the increase could have been caused by the apparent success of last year's program.

The problem remaining now is that of distributing the money between the different activities. As of this week, nothing specific has been determined as the guiding factor, but Mr. Orten has contacted each department coordinator to see how they feel about it. Whatever is decided, he thinks, can better benefit all if the fund requests come in early.

Information about this year's IAP may be obtained from the IAP Guide which will list all planned activities. The first copies of this Guide will be distributed to all students and faculty on November 15. On about December 15 a more complete version will be distributed. From that date on, additions will be added to the Guide as they are received.

The major difference between this year's and last year's program is that there won't be as many notebook guides. Last year almost 200 notebooks were distributed throughout the community. This year approximately 100 notebooks will be used for containing the IAP information. These notebooks will probably be kept, one in each dorm or fraternity, and at other often used locations on campus.

Recruiters emphasize non-technical abilities

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among the dozen schools it recruits (the last a few years ago included some 40 or 50 schools) because "it would count on MIT graduates (he was speaking of electrical engineering) to be especially aware of and competent with the current state-of-the-art, stuff that was in some cases 10 years old in industry only within the past two or three years.

But the smaller firms tend to rely on MIT's record and the performance of the Institute's graduates. Some of them do not even have the staff to send a personnel officer, and may send one of their practicing engineers instead. These men may have no detailed knowledge at all of what MIT offers its students or expects of them, and can only judge how well the student would fit into their operation. (It is these men, incidentally, who may have to place the greatest reliance on grades.)