Construction started; festive ceremony held

By Robert Elkin

Approximately 200 Cambridge residents, federal, state and local officials attended what MIT Corporation Chairman Howard Johnson termed a "neighborhood block party" to celebrate the start of construction of MIT's three-site $177 million housing program for the -1700 students who will be housed next year at the new MIT Faculty Club.

The festive groundbreaking ceremony was marked not only by impromptu singing and dancing, but also by the election of Steven Goldin (left, above), a resident near the Cambridgeport Inn, for leafleting against noise pollution caused by the construction.

The construction of 684 units of housing at three sites in East Cambridge, North Cambridge and Cambridgeport represents the 10th "gentrally approved" program in the nation. Under this program, MIT will build the apartment complexes and sell them to the Cambridge Housing Authority on a non-profit basis.

To finance the construction, MIT will borrow funds from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency.

The ceremony consisted of the pouring and making of three cement cylinders which will be placed in the buildings during construction, by representatives of the three neighborhoods. Embedded within each cylinder will be a chrome capsule containing the names of those Cambridge citizens involved in the neighborhood planning groups who assisted MIT in the planning of buildings to conform to their own needs.

During the reception preceding the ceremony, Goldin handed out flyers attacking MIT for its failure to require the use of low noise construction equipment, such as jackhammers, despite the availability of the equipment. He was contacted by Vice-President Kenneth Wadleigh and finally had to be practically dragged out by Lieutenant Driscoll of the Campus Patrol.

By Paul Schindler

An 80% turnout of eligible Coop voters lowered MIT's representation among student directors in results announced by Coop Manager Davis last Friday.

The top vote getter was Joe Armstrong, 11th; third place was taken by another MIT director, John Newkirk. The pair room together in Boston, and when contacted by The Tech both said that they were "gratified by the results. The Tech" noted that the call Sunday night was the first word they had received of their election.

Representation of MIT and Harvard, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, is defined by the Coop bylaws. The proper number of people are nominated by the Coop each year for student director positions. But the petition process, according to Davis, throws out this provision, and awards the directorships on the basis of votes received.

The Coop bylaws merely require that there be 23 directors of the Coop. If 11 of whom must be student members, along with 11 non-student members and the Grassman. Student members are any degree candidate.

3459 out of a possible 17,000 student members voted, and they reduced MIT's graduate school representation by one, while adding one more member of the Harvard Business School. (The balance of student Coop members overwhelmingly favors Harvard.) MIT was represented in graduate schools, by a ratio of about two to one.

Davis noted, while that this year's turnout was small, it was "typical for recent years." He added that he was "of course sorry that there will not be four MIT directors, as during the coming year, I have enjoyed working with them, and they have given me a great deal of support during my year here. Don't forget though, that MIT is the largest undergraduate representation on the board; MIT's under-representation is due in large part to the just the random people at Harvard Business School."

The board meets once a month to review policy, with the exception of July and August. Davis noted that the board serves two functions which enables the Coop to be more responsive to the knowledge of its customers.

Returning director Angland said that he was, "particularly pleased with the fact that representatives on the board; MIT's under-representation is due in large part to the just the random people at Harvard Business School."

When asked about the future of the same situation, De Neufville said that the Committee is trying to "round out the picture" through expansion of the humanities options and "to improve the scope of subjects" which are available to undergraduates to fulfill the requirements.

Cited as examples were the increasing number of students in the social sciences which are now listed as requirement options.

With all the new options and possibilities now open for fulfillment of the General Institute Requirements, the Committee has been receiving a number of petitions to have other courses count towards the fulfillment of the requirements, particularly the laboratory requirement.

When asked about the possibility of the procedure for reviewing petitions received by the Committee, De Neufville answered that none of the requests received carry with them, "just more random people at Harvard Business School willing to take the chance of running for Coop office than at MIT. To vote on its just one more case study."

MIT loses in Coop election

Core courses investigated

By Norman Sandler

The athletic and humanities requirements of aspects are the MIT curriculum which are being subjected to intense investigation by the Institute Committee on Curriculum, according to Richard De Neufville, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, and Chairman of the Committee.

Over the past two years, the Committee has reviewed all undergraduate requirements and has added to the list of options which were self-study to fulfill the goals of the requirement. In addition, the Committee is charged with the task of reviewing petitions for exceptions to the General Institute Requirements.

The questions which have evolved dealing with the Institute's special emphasis on the four quarters of physical education include the inequity of not receiving count of participation, fulfillment of the requirements, which is still under review, rather than the achievement of a level of competence, and the requirement exemptions for female students.

The "comprehensive vs. attendance" argument was likened to the so-called swimming competence requirement, in which all students are required to demonstrate the ability to swim, or else must either satisfy this requirement, or be required to take swimming, after which they are supposed to have attained the same level of competence. One-sixth of the entering students this year said they did not know how to swim, and enroll in the beginners' swimming course. Ironically, upon completion of the course it has been found that 10% of the students who still do not know how to swim.

When asked about the future of the athletics requirement, De Neufville stated that the Committee is trying to find ways to make the requirement more fair, including the possibility for a type of "modified enrollment", resulting from a situation last year involving a number of people who would have been kept from graduating due to physical education requirements which were not fulfilled. On the other hand, however, he said that it is highly unlikely that the Committee will recommend abolition of the requirement.

The problems arising from the humanities requirements are a different situation, according to De Neufville. Said with a growing interest in what is all-too-busily termed "the humanities" incluing everything not dealing with the pure sciences, the Committee is trying to "round out the picture" through expansion of the humanities options and "to improve the scope of subjects" which are available to undergraduates to fulfill the requirements.