Committee views problems

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things, a decline in common participation. The dormitories of the future will be designed to encourage the smaller group identity process.

There was discussion of what group provided the strongest sense of identity for a student: his living group or his class. It was felt by committee members that both kinds of identity might be useful, but that there was currently very little class identity.

Harry Portnoy of the Planning Office then outlined the plans for dormitory construction in the near future, stating that a new West Campus dorm could be "on-line for the fall of 1975" if the process is begun by next month.

This time scale is contingent, Portnoy noted, on "the availability of the funding," and a "good decision process."

Based on studies of parking problems, service to students, and flexibility, the area around MacGregor, Westgate M., and Audubon Street has been selected as an undergraduate student housing site. Current plans call for small unit construction, which can proceed based on the amount of funding on hand without waiting for the full cost of a dorm to be raised.

Wiener informally briefed the committee on developments at the Simplex site, which may be used at some future date for either faculty or student housing. "Commercial developers," Wiener told the group, persistently advise trading the Simplex parcel (in tax and development terms) for a piece of land on campus, either riverfront property on Memorial Drive, or some piece of Brin Flight. "There are some things more important than money," Wiener said, adding that the physical integrity of the campus would not be violated so long as he had something to say about it.

The President concluded by noting that there do not seem to be any viable plans for development of Simplex at this time.

Wadleigh, the Visiting Committee for the problem facing the fraternities, including the fact that contributions in their corporations are not tax deductible. In addition, they have to pay full real estate taxes. And finally, they have been burdened organizationally by competition from improving living conditions in the dormitories, and changing social and cultural mores.

Although money cannot be given directly to the fraternities by the Institute, it can be loaned to them, and alumni can contribute to the process through the Independent Residence Fund. Long term, low interest rates are available, Wadleigh said, for rehabilitation of physical plants.

MIT's fraternity structure is unique in New England; there is no equivalent structure at Harvard, Yale or Princeton (except for MIT'sapteranities). Another member, Joseph Wolfowitz, backed back to his days of elitist fraternity life at Harvard, but went on to note that different things are at MIT, concluding that he had been converted to supporting them and thought fraternities were "Here, and here to stay."

It was made perfectly clear that any MIT support to fraternities would include some kind of explicit prohibition against discrimination, although members of the Dean's office agreed that it was unnecessary, as discrimination is not a major problem in the MIT fraternity system.

Wadleigh concluded by noting that the federal government viewed such organizations as Student Home, which bases admission on financial need, very favorably, and that money for the creation of another such house might be obtained without much trouble.

The Planning Office, after some probing questions, contended that it has procedures set up to assure the visual integrity of the new buildings, through Dean Porter of the School of Architecture and outside consultants.

The afternoon session of the committee included a presentation by several students of their feelings about various student activities.

Curtis Reeves introduced the discussion and participants after a few remarks by Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Jon Hartshorne, who began by outlining one student's view of the dean's office, its current functions, and its proper role, a discussion which took up a great deal of time in the question and answer session later (the full statement appears on page 9).

Natalie Parks, outgoing Finance Board chairman, described the disposition of the $76,000 that Finboard distributes each year, noting that one-third of it goes to undergraduate governments. She described the board's philosophy as "As much money to as many people as possible."

Robert Dwyer, president of the Association of Student Activities described the philosophy of his group as "Easing the interface between MIT and over 100 activities." In further remarks, he attributed the current "space crunch" (The Tech, March 2, page 11) to a lack of communication between the Institute and the student activities. Other students who spoke at the meeting included Steve Wallman of SOG, Stu Donald of BSU, Paul Pangaro of DramaShop (who also spoke at MTG), and this reporter, of The Tech. All four addressed themselves to the problems and promise of their respective activities.