Days of work and preparation show Physical Plant’s concern

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the beating of thousands of feet in grassy areas. Both, Pickard said, are important.

“We try to spiff everything up over and above the normal situation,” he explained. “We’ve had a set-up for about four years now, with these planting tubs we put out on campus, and we try to use that to add color and life in a lot of areas.”

“We always try to get a jump on the crowds,” Pickard continued, explaining that the move of activities from the Killian Court to the Kresge area had tended to make grass maintenance easier. “We go through and maintain the grass, aerate it and do forth, for weeks before commencement, and then as soon as the tents come down we go through and fix it up again.”

Cleaning up after commencement cermonies, Pickard said, “is not that involved — this isn’t a money affair.” He explained that the commencement audience tended to be “a very subdued crowd. It’s nothing like a party or beer blast,” he concluded.

Pickard’s grounds crew aren’t the only Physical Plant workers who are involved in preparing for commencement. Maintenance crews have been painting and polishing wood and fixtures all over campus. Men from the Shade Shop, the Paint Shop, and the carpenters’ department have set up equipment in Rockwell Cage — platform, more than 4000 chairs, band stands, flags, podiums, wall hangings, and so forth. Masons have been at work on the brick patio around Kresge Auditorium.

The busyness of the last two weeks has extended all the way up the ranks of Physical Plant, but has been especially concentrated on Miles Cowen, Assistant Director of Physical Plant for Special Services. Cowen has been so busy in the last week that as his secretary said — “he’s just in and out in two minutes, everywhere all over the place.”

“You get so close to this thing at that stage,” Cowen explained last week, “that you can’t really sit back and look at it overall. There’s a heck of a lot of effort that’s going into making things just right for the ceremonies.”

Commemmencement -1300 graduating

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Training Corps commissioning ceremonies were held last Friday. Eight students received commissions as second lieutenants in the US Army, while one Naval ensign and nine Air Force lieutenants received their commissions. Major General Hugh F. Foster Jr., commanding officer of the US Army Electronic Command at North Middletown, NJ, spoke at the commissioning exercises.

Two of the Air Force cadets commissioned broke new ground for MIT, as they — Brenda J. Blake and Paula A. Lieberman, were the first women ever to be commissioned officers at MIT.

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