Sound in 10-250 a problem for LSC

By Gordon Haff

Nearly six months after 10-250's scheduled opening, problems with the sound system are still preventing its use for movie projections.

When asked about these problems, Harry Portnov, Campus Architect and the person responsible for the construction phase, replied that there was no real problem with the sound system but rather "we haven't completed all the work on it yet." He added that "we're having less problems with [10-250] that anticipated." Michael Dornbrook '71 of the Lecture Series Committee (LSC), the major users of the 10-250 projection equipment, disagreed with Portnov and cited a list of items which he and other members of LSC considered wrong with the room.

Dornbrook's major complaint was with the JBL sound system which was installed. Currently, the sound system is "disturbing horribly," according to Dornbrook.

In November 1976, LSC received a proposal from the Bose Corporation to set up a sound system in 10-250 at a substantial discount. On January 4, 1977, LSC members had a meeting with people from planning and with Frank Cook from Audio-Visual Viswanathan. At this meeting, LSC laid out some of the things which they were interested in: a Bose sound system which could be used for movie four sound, a portable, moveable lighting system, a large set of speakers, and all of other important items, such as independent booth ventilation, condensate collection, and absorption of different signal levels through separate conduits. Adequate soundproofing so the audience cannot hear noise generated by projectors, projectionists, and the toilet. Quality audio monitors so that projectors and cameras can hear sound problems over the noise of the projectors and the toilet.

At the end of this meeting, Portnov told LSC that if any of these requests were to be fulfilled, a complete proposal would have to be in by two days time. LSC did this, including Bose's proposal and a complete diagram of the wiring racways and projector set-up. In order to overcome any budgetary objections, LSC offered to pay for the additional cost of the sound system. This included audio monitors, light dimmers and lenses — the total cost for materials and labor was estimated to be $5,000.

Bolton, Beranek & Newman, Inc. (BBN) specifically Robert Beranek, was the contractor responsible for the acoustic design of the room 10-250. Their original plan was to use the

NASA cut protest

By Steven Solnick

Proposals for large scale space ventures and the need to avert planned NASA budget cuts were the topics addressed at a meeting organized by the MIT Space Habitat Study Group last Wednesday night.

Dr. Arthur Kantrowitz, visiting Institute Professor, suggested to an audience of seventy-five that "naive pessimism" about our abilities to survive in space, rather than technological problems, was keeping the human race from tapping the virtually limitless energy and resources available in space. Emphasizing "an open future for the human race," Kantrowitz said that space offered the same possibilities for the "new starts" as the New World did centuries ago.

Professor Rene Miller, chairman of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, proposed a plan which he called the "answer to all of America's long term energy problems." The plan calls for solar power satellites to be placed in a geosynchronous earth orbit. (Photo courtesy Professor Rene Miller)

An artist's conception of proposed solar power satellite system to be placed in a geosynchronous earth orbit. (Photo courtesy Professor Rene Miller)