New dorm in 1981

By Jay Glass

In a move to relieve the widespread overcrowding in the dormitory system, the MIT Corporation has given its approval to the development of a new dormitory. The dormitory will be located in the present Tang Hall parking lot.

Current projections for the new dorm indicate an expected capacity of about three hundred undergraduates. The target date for completion of the new facility is September of 1981.

While the architect has not yet been selected for the design of the new building, administrative officials have already decided that it will be a low-rise structure with an external design similar to the new houses, said Operations Vice-President Philip A. Stoddard, Concerning the Corporation's decision to give the go-ahead on the new dorm, Stoddard added, "I'm delighted with the turn of events."

Funding for the project will be provided from the current Leadership endowment raising campaign, though specific source of the funds has not yet been determined. The Corporation has budgeted ten million dollars for the development of a new dormitory. Where these new spaces will be located has not yet been determined.

Destroying the Tang parking lot will greatly reduce the number of available parking spaces in West Campus, thus increasing the current parking problems. Associate Dean of Student Affairs in charge of Housing, Robert Sherwood, said that alternate parking would have to be provided, along with about 75 new spaces to accommodate the residents of the new dorm. Where these new spaces will be located has not yet been determined.

While an agreement has been reached on most of the external design questions, "everything internal is up for grabs at the moment," according to Sherwood. A "client's team" of students, staff and administrative personnel will deal with the internal architecture, making suggestions and working with the architect, thus ensuring some student input into the inside details.

The plight of transfers and readmitted students, who currently are virtually denied on-campus housing, may be considerably eased by the opening of the new dorm. Details such as room layout, style of interior structure, and the question of living style are still very open and student suggestions are welcome. The Undergraduate Association is sponsoring a student forum concerning the new dorm tomorrow afternoon at 4 pm in Room 54-100.

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