Dorm plans out

By James Kelleher
MIT will begin the construction of a new dormitory this March. According to Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Robert Sherwood, the dorm will be completed by August 1981 and be ready for occupancy by September 1981. It will be built on Memorial Drive over the parking lot next to New House. Parking facilities for both houses will probably be built on MIT property on Yankee Street. A ratio of one parking space for every four residents is required by law.

The building is designed to be architecturally compatible with New House when viewed from outside, and it will consist of five floors. The first floor will be a common area with vending areas, dining facilities and activity rooms, whose exact function will be determined later.

It is expected that many of the students in the dorm will be on a meal plan and therefore kitchen facilities will be somewhat limited. There will be a large country kitchen and a smaller party kitchen on the first floor. The dining room will accommodate about 250 people and so should allow some room for people not living in the dormitory. There will also be a grill operating after the normal dining hours.

The living area will extend throughout the top four floors and will have room for 300 people. At least 25 percent of the residents will be living in doubles and the rest in singles. However, many rooms have adjoining doors so that singles can be turned into doubles at the discretion of the residents. Small public lounges will be provided for each group of eight to ten people. There will be large lounges, probably two per floor, for each group of thirty to forty.

TPA offers public service projects

By Eric Johns
The Technology Planning Association (TPA) is an organization whose goal is to give undergraduates the opportunity to work on projects in the field of public service.

TPA contracts jobs from both state and local government agencies and public advocacy groups and offers them as research projects to undergraduates. Students work on these projects in teams of two to three led by an experienced upperclassman. A faculty member from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning acts as an advisor. The typical project requires four to six hours of work per week and would last for about six weeks. Academic credit for this work can be arranged.

The substance of the research projects is "real life" problems. Projects currently being offered include the development of a management system and the researching and writing of state legislation.

In all of the projects, the research teams are responsible to their clients and their work must suit the clients' needs. Some clients require a report on the project explaining the procedure used and the results obtained. Others may desire an oral presentation. It may even be necessary for a research team to testify at legislation or public hearings.

The goal of TPA is to allow students to "get a taste of" public service work as well as to gain research experience. Undergraduates will also make contacts in the public sector that will become valuable if they decide on a career in the public service area. At present, there are several projects being offered. The TPA office is in Room 3-408.

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