Construction of new lab proceeds in Building 39

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The office space will accommodate 8 to 10 faculty members, ap- proximately 60 graduate stu- dents, and members of support staff and administration. The third floor will also have a com- puter lab.

The first floor and basement will be used for building support services and storage.

A hallway on the building's first floor will allow passage from Caspar Street to the south side of the building. The third floor will be the only one to connect with the Center for Space Research (Building 37) and the Sherman Fairchild Building (Building 38), although the upper five floors abut the two other buildings.

The other floors are accessible only by elevator. Present passageways from contaminating the air, said Noble. Those floors will have emergency exit doors leading to adjacent buildings, he said.

Building 39 is closed during the renovation because of haz- ards during demolition and re- construction of the interior, ac- cording to Colozzi. Opening a safe passageway between Buildings 37 and 39 for the duration of the construction on one floor of Building 39 would cost $8000, and the passageway would have to be relocated fre- quently, he said.

Construction workers gutted most of the building and re- moved almost all interior walls. They are now drilling holes through the floors to accommo- date air ducts, Colozzi said.

The holes and protruding pipes would be a major hazard to pedestrians during the renovation, he continued.

The architect for the renovation project is Symmes, Maini and McKeen Associates Inc., and the contractor is D. O’Connell’s Sons Inc., according to Harry P. Poromy, campus architect.

Noble said the Institute should sell some of its Simplex land to lessen its influence in the area and expand the diversity of devel- opers. "Had MIT not bitten off quite so much" it may have kept the trust of the neighborhoods, which are "lazy of [the plan] in its present form."

Neighborhood residents fear MIT will continue its academic expansion to the Simplexes site as it has on the east side of Mas- sachusetts Avenue, Noble said.

The Institute has no plans to use Simplex for academic pur- poses, Milne said, but it may rent taxable areas in an office build- ing, as it does in Technology Square.

The Institute also owns proper- ty in other parts of Cambridge, including the buildings on Main Street in Kendall Square which house BayBank/Harvard Trust and Lee Nutrition, and about 80 percent of the buildings along Memorial Drive and Amberlil Street on the east side of campus, Milne said.

MIT may someday use those buildings for academic purposes, he said.