One-third of ’86 to overcrowd

By Betty S. Surman

With the third and final round of housing assignments complete, the dormitories will house 125 more freshmen than their capacity, according to figures released by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA).

The number of freshmen living in overcrowded rooms will not be known until the houses complete their room assignments, said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood.

On average, Sherwood said earlier this week, about 215 freshmen will live in overcrowded rooms for each assignment over capacity, so at least 360 freshmen—or almost one-third of the entering class—are expected to share overcrowded quarters.

The Dean’s Office assigned 776 students, including 40 transfer students, to live in three rounds of the housing lottery.

The R/O Center reported 107 freshmen checked in by 6pm yesterday. At least nine and possibly ten more freshmen are expected to arrive at MIT, according to Sherwood.

The number of overcrowded freshmen closely matches the figure Sherwood predicted last week. This year’s large freshman class is the main factor contributing to the overcrowding of the MIT dormitory system.

Although the Academic Council authorized Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson ’48 to produce a freshman class size between 1075 and 1100 students, Richardson sent a memorandum to President Paul E. Gray ’54 last week estimating 1120 freshmen would ultimately arrive.

Baker House received 35 women and 40 men in the three-round lottery; Belles Hall, 6 women and 23 men; Burton House, 32 women and 69 men; East Cambridge, 24 women and 109 men; McGregor House, 111 men; McCormick Hall, 61 women; New House, 10 women and 55 men; Random Hall, 2 women and 25 men; Senior House, 7 women and 36 men; 500 Memorial Drive, 50 women and 55 men; and the four language houses, 7 women and 15 men.

MIT women achieve on par with men

By Laura Farhie

There is no significant difference in academic performance of men and women students at MIT, according to a report released by the Academic Council Committee on Women Student’s Interests (ACWSI).

Women participate fully in extracurricular activities and receive a substantial share of awards, the report states.

Grading at MIT shows no condition to sex of student, says the report. Men and women are indistinguishable by grades across all departments averaged over the past five years.

A study has not been done to determine whether a higher percentage of women are enrolled in "easier" majors, according to committee member Dorothy E. Bowe, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid.

There is no significant difference in the percentages of women and men on academic warning, the report continues.

Fifteen percent of academic awards in June 1981 went to women students, while women comprised 19 percent of the undergraduate population. Academic awards are recommended by students’ departments, and “women students may not be as well known in their departments, even if their grades are as good or better,” Bowe said.

Some women may be less involved in their departments because they are more involved in extracurricular activities, Bowe claimed. Women received 31 percent of extracurricular awards, 21 percent of military awards, and 20 percent of military awards in June 1981.

Twenty-six percent of Phi Beta Kappa members at MIT in 1981 were women, according to the report.

The engineering honorary society, Tau Beta Pi, offered membership to 1120 freshmen. Thirty-nine women, including two transfer students, pledged.

“I know that a number of houses have been taking overcrowds,” said Mark Sorrells ’83, IFC Rush Chairman.

“The fraternities did an extraordinary job,” commented Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. “The last I heard they had about 392 pledges, which is 15 more than we expected.”

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) and the fraternities come up with their prediction of the number of people who will enter fraternities by “evaluating the number of people who have ween going around [to fraternities]. I know that a number of houses have been taking overcrowds,” said Mark Sorrells ’83, IFC Rush Chairman.

“There were very few freshmen who opted to stay with their parents or relatives” and join the Non-Resident Students’ Association (NRSA), said Sherwood.

“We usually figure there will be 10 or 12, but last year there were only seven, and this year there will probably be only three or four,” Sherwood said.

Clearinghouse reported only one non-resident freshman.

Gray sees shortage

By Jerri-Lynn Scofield

( Editor’s note: This article is the first of a series examining issues affecting the Institute with President Paul E. Gray ’54)

The current shortage of trained faculty members in science and engineering “is a scandal,” according to President Paul E. Gray ’54.

The problem, Gray said, is that many of the most talented undergraduate science and engineering students have left the United States. “We also do take into account construction, such as the new top floor TDC put in, which added five spots,” Gray said.

“By my knowledge,” Sorrells said, “rush is basically over. There might be some specific cases in which a fraternity doesn’t know how many of the bids it has out will call and, but I think that everyone has pretty much all the pledges they want.”

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President Paul E. Gray ’54 is worried by the shortage of trained faculty members in the science and engineering fields.

More join frats than expected

By Max Hailperin

Three hundred and ninety-seven freshmen, including twenty transfer students, had pledged fraternities by yesterday evening, according to Clearinghouse.

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Gray sees shortage
Gray sees prof. shortage

By Joel Gluck

A company formed by eight MIT chemical engineers is selling a computer program to assist in the design and evaluation of processing plants.

ASPEN Technology, Inc., formed in August 1981, sells its program - ASPEN-PLUS - to builders of petroleum refineries, chemical plants, and paper or mineral processing installations. The original Advanced System for Process Engineering (ASPEN) software was developed at MIT with funding from the US Department of Energy. The program was developed to simulate steady-state chemical processes. ASPEN-PLUS, the enhanced version of the program, includes program updates and is sold to companies for $50,000 per year.

A company using the system can typically save "millions of dollars," according to Dr. Lawrence Evans, president of ASPEN Technology. The program, he said, can speed the design of new plants, or evaluate those already in operation. The savings in energy use and efficiency may be "several percent." Evans claimed, translating into great monetary savings. A California-based company, Simulation Sciences, markets a program called PROCESS, which performs functions similar to ASPEN-PLUS. Although Simulation Sciences is an older, well-established company, Dr. Evans feels "ASPEN is a more powerful, flexible system." A company can tailor the program to suit its own needs and can implement its own models, he said.

Major users of ASPEN-PLUS include Gulf & Western, Sohio, Eastman Kodak, Dow Chemical, Petrol Canada, and Union Carbide. Although ASPEN technology has been a successful enterprise, Dr. Evans feels that "things are going too slow" and suspects that this is an effect of the adverse state of the economy. ASPEN hopes to develop a dynamic process simulator to examine not only steady-state processes, but also analyze start-up, shut-down, and emergency operation, Evans said.

Currently, ASPEN-PLUS runs on IBM, Univac, and DEC VAX systems.

"The vigor we have seen in the last few years for engineers... is likely to continue," Gray speculated. He predicted there will be no more wild swings in employment opportunities as there have been in the past.

On the other hand, as the demand for engineers continues, "secondary schools in the country are failing in the teaching of science and mathematics," Gray asserted. Only one high school in three offers more than one year of science and mathematics courses and only one in six high school students has studied more than one year of science and mathematics by the time he graduates.

"How can you live in the modern world and be a good citizen if you stopped with Algebra I and Biology?" Gray asked.

MIT research spawns corporation

By Joel Gluck

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World

Israel angered at Reagan proposal — The Israeli cabinet has reacted angrily to a letter from President Ronald W. Reagan calling for a freeze on new settlements in Israeli-occupied territories on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Reagan restated his opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, however, and omitted any reference to a role for the PLO in negotiations. In a nationally-televised television speech Wednesday, the President predicted more active US participation in future talks. "A clearer sense of America's position on key issues is necessary," Reagan said.

Mexico nationalizes banks — Outgoing President Jose Lopez Portillo Wednesday the Mexican government would nationalize private banks to prevent the flight of private capital during Mexico's financial crisis. Lopez Portillo also declared new exchange controls would be imposed, and announced all banks would be closed until next Monday. Mexican currency has declined 75 percent in value over the past year.

US clarifies pipeline penalties — The Reagan Administration has decided to ease penalties against companies supplying equipment for the Siberia-West Europe natural gas pipeline, describing the original total embargo order as "perhaps . . . a little too sweeping." Previously, sweeping sanctions had been imposed on British and European companies defying the US boycott of the Soviet project. President Reagan said the changes are not a relaxation, but a "clarification."

Chinese Congress to make changes — The 12th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, now meeting in Peking is expected to authorize "significant amendments" to the party's constitution. The changes are seen as part of party leader Deng Xiaoping's move to create a more moderate and pragmatic political environment. Purges of party members installed during the Cultural Revolution are expected, as well as the retirement of some members of the aging Chinese hierarchy. If implemented, the changes will amount to the most extensive non-violent transformation in the party's history.

Labor movement set back in Philippines — The Philippine military arrested 23 union leaders in Manila Wednesday, in a crackdown against the labor movement. Five of the 23 have been released following "investigation and character identification." The remainder are being detained under emergency regulations ordered by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who is currently visiting the US.

Nation

National Enquirer not sued — The Justice Department decided not to sue The National Enquirer for publishing a poem entitled "Bloody Love" sent to it by John W. Hinckley, who shot President Reagan and three other men March 30. Attorneys for attorneys for publishing a poem entitled "Bloody Love" sent to it by John W. Hinckley, who shot President Reagan and three other men March 30. Attorneys for

Local

Hingham man dies in rescue — David McNeice, 22, died Tuesday night, after being hit by an MBTA red line train while trying to rescue Walter McComber, 26, who had fallen on the tracks at Washington station. McComber, who was also hit by the train, is in stable condition in Boston City Hospital after surgeons amputated his left foot Wednesday night.

Richard Mlynarik and Joel Gluck

Weather

Clouds and showers will continue through most of the day today, but the humidity will begin to drop and skies will begin to clear late this afternoon or this evening. Today's high will be near 80; the low to-
Editorial

Three ways to improve R/O week

MIT's method of assigning incoming students to housing is unique among universities. Less than a week after arriving on campus, freshmen and incoming students choose their living groups, based on personal perceptions of the character, emphasis, and personalities of the various houses. It is often said that if the Institute tried to assign students to appropriate living quarters, it would take much more time and people would be much less happy. The MIT administration has discovered that by allowing students to choose, within certain constraints, their living groups, they usually feel they have made the "best" possible selection.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs can improve both the credibility and the outcome of the R/O Week experience in three significant ways. Acknowledging the virtue of being honest with students while accommodating their concerns is the only way to ensure the success of the residence selection process.

First, the practice of allowing women to select multiple first choices on their housing preference forms should be discontinued. This practice serves no real purpose except to make it appear, artificially, that more MIT women receive their first choice housing preference than actually do. It is both illogical and impossible to have two first choice living assignments. Continuing this outmoded system serves only to perpetuate arbitrary distinctions between men and women at MIT.

Second, during the "three-week" period after only three weeks at assigning permanent housing leaves too many residents dissatisfied. Currently, students end up in dormitories they rated sixth or lower on their housing preference cards, especially in years such as this, when the housing system is extremely overcrowded. This situation arises even though students continue to pledge relationships throughout R/O, opening presumably desirable spots in the housing system. The Dean's Office should revert to its previous practice of allowing four rounds of the housing preference, rather than making permanent assignments after the third round and using spaces that open subsequently to remove students from overcrowded rooms.

The Office should attempt to ensure the ratio of incoming men to women assigned to coeducational dormitories reflects the overall composition of the freshmen class, of incoming men to women assigned to coeducational dormitories, while not sending one to one and thirteen to one. The current practice of continuing to assign women to popular facilities, while not sending one to one and thirteen to one, is wrong. This practice serves no real purpose except to make it appear, artificially, that more MIT women receive their first choice housing preference than actually do. It is both illogical and impossible to have two first choice living assignments. Continuing this outmoded system serves only to perpetuate arbitrary distinctions between men and women at MIT.

By subtracting the number of freshmen who were assigned to a dorm from the number who listed it as their first choice, the number of men who did not get their first choice is 78. 190 - 78 = 112. Therefore, there should be 112 males still in limbo as of Monday night. By doing the same for women. (Please turn to page 5)
Freshwomen's assignments are poorly distributed

(Continued from page 4)

there were 5 who did not get their first choice, and 17 who were assigned to a dorm other than their first choice. 5 - 17 =

Sexist column is insulting

Dear Sirs:

Most of what you publish offends me, probably because you carelessly believe that since good writing is a man's province, offensive, offensive must be good. But little has approached the insulting level of Robert Malchman's column of August 27. Mr. Malchman apparently thinks the sole purpose of females at MIT is to enhance his sex life. The publication of this column, in the very first issue of The Tech, can only serve to perpetuate Mr. Malchman's bizarre notion, and does a disservice to the entire MIT community.

Robert Gross

Robert E. Malchman replies:

(from Webster's New Twentieth-Century Unabridged Dictionary) satire 1. a literary work in which vices, follies, stupidities, abuses, are held up to ridicule and contempt. 2. the use of ridicule, sarcasm, irony, etc. to expose, attack, or deride vices, follies, etc. (Editor’s note: I find it extremely ironic to receive mail complaining about sexism addressed “Dear Sir.” If Mr. Gross had looked at The Tech's masthead any time in the last year and a half, he might have noticed the ad five-in-chief of both Volumes 101 and 102 have been female, and several members of the newspaper's managing board are women as well.)

Take 17.201J

To the Editor:

I am hardly an expert on answering the questions freshmen tend to ask most (see Robert Malchman's column dated August 27, 1982). I am delighted to welcome those students who take his advice to enroll in 17.201J this fall. I am perplexed, however, that negative 14. This leads me to wonder where the other 14 women came from. Perhaps the chart was misprinted, or perhaps there was a serious error in room assignments. If the chart is correct, why were the room assignments done the way they were? If 11 women will be living in Burton who did not list it as a first choice, they could not all have listed it as a second or third choice — after all, only 5 women did not get their first choice. East Campus received 5 more women than listed it as a first choice — French House received one.

The chart also points out many other facts. 83 men who wanted to live in Next House couldn't, but all the women could. 32 men who wanted to live in Baker couldn't. But only 3 women were not allowed to. Houses which received small ratios of women to men did not get any women in the second round. I understand there is a lot of talk about letting women live where they want because life at MIT is tough for a woman and all that — I should understand, because I am a woman. It's hard not to “have a woman to talk to” and it's no fun to go to a party alone and get picked up by 20 guys. But just think for a moment. I would far rather live in my second choice dorm with 20% of the freshmen being women than live in my first choice dorm with the ratio being 1:7, 1:8, or 1:13. If 12 women did not indicate a preference, shouldn't they have been placed in dorms with lower ratios for the sake of themselves and the women assigned to these dorms?

I know this is a long letter — far longer than I intended. But the assignment of the new freshmen and women is important, not just to them but to the entire MIT community — and therefore deserves the space. I think a more complete explanation of how the freshmen and women were placed and where this error came from is in order.

Diane Johnson '82

We were quite aware of the discrepancies in the numbers at press time, but did not find out until somewhat later that the "total assigned" figures were provided by the Dean's Office included transfer students. For example, of 71 transfer students to check in at the R/O Center, 70 pledged freshmen, and another 40 were assigned to dormitories — thus the "extra students".

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