Most get first housing choice; 150 in Limbo

By Katleh Schwartz

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs assigned 670 freshmen and transfer students to residences in the first round of the housing lottery last night. A total of 817 new students applied, and all were assigned places in Limbo. Last year, 80 students were in Limbo after the first round of the lottery. All available spaces in Institute houses, except Random Hall, were filled in the lottery.

More dormitory spaces will become available as new students pledge fraternities, upperclassmen cancel dormitory assignments and additional crowded rooms are created. Students in Limbo will receive housing assignments in further rounds of the lottery. New students may cancel their dormitory assignments and place themselves in Limbo if they wish to try for another assignment in the residence system.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Shirley Sherwood said that, "If all new students who have not lived on campus previously (are) assigned to Senior House who had not named it as his first choice, according to Sherwood. MacGregor House also attracted more students than any other house. McCormick Hall was able to accommodate all students despite being crowded.

Statistics derived from figures supplied by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs and information from individual dormitories.

First-round housing assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>First choices</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS: 538

Students in Limbo: 150

Percentage of those assigned receiving first choice: 95.7%
Percentage of applicants receiving first choice: 78%

*Refers to number of students assigned to crowded rooms.

Statistics derived from figures supplied by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs and information from individual dormitories.

Picnic held indoors for first time in 16 years

By Craig Jungwirth

Fierce inclement weather forced the Freshman picnic indoors for the first time in at least 16 years, according to Win Treen '86, Residence/Orientation (R/O) Week co-coordinator. "The location of the Freshman Picnic was not a factor... if it is the case that Rush is going to be a hit slow..." said Interfraternity Conference (IFC) Chairman Timothy Anderson '86.

President Paul E. Gray '34 introduced Julia C. McCay, recently retired senior associate director of admissions, who echoed former director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson's "48 tradi- tion" of "phone home... and look both ways before crossing Massachusetts Avenue." McCay also advised the Class of 1989 to "learn to combat the lie of confidence in who you are and why you're [MIT]... and care about each other."

Director of Admissions Michael C. Bohnke briefly addressed the freshmen advising them to take advantage of the continuing services plan for at least year both the Admissions and other sup- port services offered at MIT by the students of "MIT's unique approach to student affairs and other students" during the R/O week.

She also reviewed an administration initiative to encourage lec- ture forums at the Institute, beginning with a discussion of apartheid to be held in early No- vember. McCay also urged the students of "to learn to combat the lie of confidence in who you are and why you're [MIT]... and care about each other."

Suzanne Horine '86 and Treen, R/O co-coordinators, gave the first round of awards

(Please turn to page 2)
choice of 204 new students, was the most popular dormitory. Fewer than two-thirds of those selecting 500 Memorial Drive could be placed in the dormitory. Baker House, Burton House and East Campus were also oversubscribed. Bexley Hall was the only dormitory to be substantially undersubscribed. It was the first choice of fewer than half the number of students for which it had space.

Crowding increases

The number of crowded dormitory rooms, presently 134, will be increased to 165 in the second housing lottery and to "whatever we need" to accommodate students remaining in Limbo in the third lottery, Sherwood said. Last year, 167 dormitory rooms were crowded.

Sherwood estimated last week that about 200 dormitory rooms would be crowded. That estimate exceeded the Dean's Office target of 100 crowds because of the unexpectedly large freshman class and the high return rate of upperclass dormitory residents, he said. The Clearinghouse computer showed 1059 members of the Class of 1989 and 74 new transfer students have arrived at MIT. Crowding levels at 500 Memorial Drive, McCormick Hall and East Campus increased dramatically since last year.

The Dean's Office must "depend on the fraternities coming through" to provide rooms for all new students, said Sherwood. Freshmen who do not pledge fraternities are guaranteed Institute housing.

Fraternity rush "seems to be doing better than last year," said Sherwood. The rainy and cool weather during Residence/Orientation Week "doesn't seem to have affected it."

The Dean's Office issues that all co-educational houses are assigned at least 25 percent women students. It achieves this goal by giving women first priority in the housing lottery until the 25 percent quota is filled.

Transfer students applying for rooms in 500 Memorial Drive were given preference over freshmen to balance the sizes of classes in that dormitory. A large number of 500 Memorial Drive residents graduated this year.

Convocation held in Kresge Auditorium

(Continued from page 1) minute advice for a successful R/O Week. Undergraduate Association (UA) President, urged the freshmen to be aware of and become involved in campus, local, national and global issues. Mary Tai '87, UA Vice President, spoke of some of the concerns of women at MIT, especially freshman women.

Dormitory Council Chairman Anthony Scotti '86 and IFC Chairman Anderson were the final speakers at the Freshman Picnic. After their brief speeches and Andersen's logistical rear-rang- ing, the Rush began.

Convocation held in Kresge Auditorium

Kresge Auditorium hosted a new President's Welcome Convocation Friday afternoon before Pre-Picnic Discussion Sessions and the Freshman Picnic. Associate Provost S. Jay Keyser welcomed the Class of 1989 and introduced President Paul E. Gray '54.

"Your undergraduate studies are a foundation for a lifetime of involvement in education," said Gray. He added the Class of 1989's impact on society and the world will be tremendous. Gray finally observed that "MIT and MIT people have an orientation to achievement," but reassured the freshmen that "success (would) come naturally for almost everyone in the class."

Provost John M. Deutch '61 stressed the "many different dimensions of the educational experience at MIT." Most importantly, Deutch charged, take advantage of the people at MIT. Kreyer addressed the Class of 1989 in he paralleled the didgeridoo, an Australian aboriginal musical instrument, to the dean's "next four years at MIT." He characterized aboriginal technology as passive: it utilized the "land without destroying it or hurting it."

Kreyer concluded the Convocation by urging the freshmen to solve problems because they exist, "not just because they are interesting."

Friday's Freshman Picnic was held in the Athletic Center. It was the first time in at least 16 years that the annual event was held indoors.
World

West Germans examine recent security damage — The most serious loss for West German intelligence was the defection of Hans Joachim Tidudge, the official in charge of Bonn's fight against East German spies. Margarete Hafker, a key secretary in the defense and foreign department of President Richard von Weizsacker's office, is believed to have been an East German spy since 1965. South African government suspends debt repayment — The South African government suspended repayments for four months on the principal of most of the country's $14.5 billion foreign debt. Exchange control regulations would heavily penalize foreign investors withdrawing money. South African Finance Minister Barned J. du Plessis said that negotiations will begin soon on rescheduling the debt. He added that South Africa's creditors will be given the choice of accepting repayment over a much longer period or having their money virtually frozen there. The suspension is due to what the government calls a "color flow crisis." Gorbachev views summit prospects with caution — Soviet chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev referred to a "lack of confidence" between the United States and the Soviet Union and a "campaign of hatred" by the Reagan administration in an interview. Relations "are continuing to deteriorate, the arms race is intensifying and the war threat is not subsiding," said the Soviet leader.

Nation

Helen heads for Gulf Coast — Hurricane Elena, which stalled at sea for two days, strengthened to a major hurricane with sustained winds of 125 mph Sunday and headed toward the Gulf Coast, where the second evacuation in four days was ordered. More than 400,000 people were told to flee the storm. Elena was reclassified from a Category Two to a Category Three hurricane on a scale of ferocity from one to five. Nowlife breathed into communications satellite — Astronaut James van Hoften hefted a seven-ton satellite over his head Sunday and then shoved it into orbit. It was the second time a satellite was launched by hand and it ended a repair in space by the crew of the space shuttle Discovery on a satellite which malfunctioned in space during April. Study shows 20 percent of high school students get drunk weekly — One in five high school students admits to getting drunk at least once a week, and one in four has smoked marijuana, according to a survey by Family Circle magazine. The survey and the National Parent's Resource Institute for Drug Education also said drug and alcohol abuse is spreading into grammar school.

Sports

Spartan Sun scores big with victory — Mary Ryan raced her wedding anniversary gift, Spartan Sun, at Wonderland where he took the shortest route home and emerged triumphant in the 51st running of the $400,000 Wonderland Derby. Dutch Bahamas finished second, a half length ahead of Rustica. "I really don't think my dog could do it," said Ryan.

Weather

Safer, anyone? — Today should be sunny, with highs in the 70s. Wind will be flowing at about six mph. The Integrated Studies Program

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All freshmen welcome!!
Column/Ben Stanger

Freshmen: join MIT activities

"Don't worry, you're on pass/fail." If you're a freshman, you'll hear this statement countless times. Everyone has different opinions on how they should use this luxury, and many question whether it is even important. Even more significant, however, The Tech has been a niche and even a home in many senses. In this, it shares its vitality and purpose with all other student activities. (Please turn to page 5)

Column/Mathews M. Cherian

Issues offer opportunities to make differences at MIT

Freshmen will certainly have plenty of issues on which to express their opinions as they enter MIT this fall. I recently had a conversation with a professor in which we discussed many of the concerns facing the members of the Class of 1989.

The professor noted that in recent years MIT has been shifting from its traditional emphasis on science and engineering to a slightly more "liberal" perspective on education. Many faculty members are concerned about whether MIT is placing the appropriate emphasis on humanities, giving the students the optimal combination of science and the liberal arts. Should MIT have a more humanist-oriented core curriculum similar to the curriculum of Columbia University or the University of Chicago? Is the current humanities requirement inadequate, adequate or even slightly more "liberal"?

Perhaps requiring more humanities is not even the answer. Maybe the course load should be designed so a student can take as much a load as he wants. Students would thus be allowed more time to delve into student government, the school newspaper, the radio station or numerous other school activities which provide enriching and broadening experiences.

The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is another issue facing students. MIT does a tremendous amount of research for the Department of Defense (DOD). This research raises a number of questions over the ethics of working for the DOD.

Last year Professor Vera Kistiakowsky helped to spark discussion among the faculty and the MIT community with her proposal to form a committee to study the effects of SDI work at MIT. The faculty passed Kistiakowsky's proposal and recently named Professor Carl Kaysen chairman of the new Ad Hoc Committee on Military Research at MIT. An issue which was not resolved last year was MIT's South African divestment policy. Anti-apartheid groups were staging protests on campus and students were writingcolumns when the school year ended. With the escalation of conflicts in South Africa, divestment of South African investments will undoubtedly remain an issue on campus.

I could go on to list any number of other issues confronting students on campus. I have listed but a few to whet the freshmen's appetites. The pass/fail system offers a unique opportunity for a freshman to get meaningfully involved in any issue. A freshman can gain nothing or everything from his first year with the margin of academic freedom pass/fail allows.

The freshmen year at MIT is a time to establish good friendships, become accustomed to the workload, gain nothing or everything from the pass/fail system offers a unique opportunity for a freshman to get meaningfully involved in any issue. A freshman can gain nothing or everything from his first year with the margin of academic freedom pass/fail allows.

Just as classes before, the Class of 1989 has an opportunity to get involved in MIT, face the issues, and, most importantly, make a difference at MIT.
Activities provide great experiences

(Continued from page 4)

I encourage freshmen to use paper/ru for this kind of experience. It is a different and more important education than your classes can give you.

Of course, it is important not to let an activity drain too much of your time. You should not let your classes suffer or have members of your time group cease to recognize you because of your involvement in student activities.

My classes and the residents on my hall were challenging, but I did not want to confine myself to them alone. The Tech gave me another way of interacting with people bearing diverse ideas and backgrounds. That's what college is supposed to be about, and any decisions you make in the next four years should bear this in mind.

Join up!

Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

Libraries' catalog needs automation

When I was in eleventh grade, visiting MIT for the first time, I was horrified to learn that the institution did not have a computerized card catalog. Computerized card catalogs allow the rapid selection and location of items on a variety of topics. They can save the time required to find a book from hours to minutes.

I had used such systems at the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr College five years ago. Today, MIT does not have such a system.

Director of Libraries Jay K. Lucker outlined his plans for an automated, computerized circulation system for the MIT Libraries two years ago. Installation of the system commenced in the fall of 1984 at a cost of $600,000.

The system, produced by Geac Limited of Canada, has sat unused by students in the Hayden Library basement for over a year.

The computer can prevent students with overdue fines from borrowing books. It can even automatically alert students to delinquent borrowers. Lucker said that there would be public access terminals so that students could query the computer system without having to leave a libra- rian.

But the Geac system will not, nor is it intended to, replace the Libraries' card catalog. This is one of the many problems with the card system. The Geac system is only an automated circulation system. It does not, for example, contain an abstract of each book on file. The system cannot be easily networked with other computer systems on campus, such as Project Athena. The system does not allow inquiries over the telephone.

Lucker said that the system would record borrowing patterns in the MIT community that keep track of this information poses serious questions regarding individual privacy. An automated circulation system can be used to compile a list of every book that a particular student has borrowed. The MIT Committee on Privacy has failed to address such issues.

Two years ago, it seemed that while MIT would not have a state-of-the-art computer system for its libraries, it would at least have a usable system. So far no visible progress has been made.

It is upsetting that MIT, one of the foremost technical schools in the world, still has no online card catalog system. Other schools that had online card catalogs - not mere circulation systems - for years.

Other universities have designed and built their own systems, employing students to do the work. Perhaps Jay Lucker does not believe that MIT students are capable of designing and implementing such a system. I suspect that the MBTA will be finished with Kendall Square before we see a computerized circulation system in the MIT Libraries.
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Audrey Ching '88 paints a drop poster for the Pizza Party/Jazz Night to be held tonight in Walker. The event is sponsored by the Residence/Orientation Committee.

Tech Photo by Shari Jackson

Audrey Ching '88 paints a drop poster for the Pizza Party/Jazz Night to be held tonight in Walker. The event is sponsored by the Residence/Orientation Committee.

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