MacGregor proves most popular dorm in lottery

By Ning S. Desai

MacGregor House was the most popular dormitory in the freshman housing lottery for the third year in a row, according to an informal survey of Residence/Orientation coordinators and deskworkers at individual dormitories.

The survey, conducted by The Tech on Wednesday night and yesterday, provided rough figures for the number of new students assigned to each dormitory. The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs had not released official results of the dormitory assignment lottery as of late yesterday.

The first round of the assignment lottery was on Tuesday afternoon, and the second round was on Wednesday night. Freshmen and transfer students may continue to accept bids from independent living groups until today, so the final numbers at each dormitory may remain somewhat uncertain until next week.

According to the unofficial survey, dormitories on the west side of campus topped the list of housing preferences, while dormitories on the east side of campus were the least popular.

Bexley House was the most popular dormitory last year, when MacGregor House was the second most popular. However, MacGregor House topped the list of survey results for the dormitory assignment lottery for the third year in a row, according to an informal survey of Residence/Orientation coordinators and deskworkers at individual dormitories.

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ILGs experience a successful rush
(Continued from page 1)

The selection of Rachel and Her Children for book night has received criticism as being hypocritical in light of the controversies surrounding MIT's development of University Park. As Book Committee members Judy Yanowitz and Danielle Ford put it, MIT's problems with homelessness made the selection all the better. Their intention, they said, was to provoke thought and discussion, and their choice was based on a set of criteria ranging from quality of the book to social importance.

The events of the last two years concerning University Park had a significant impact on their decision. Yanowitz said. She specifically referred to the "Tent City" phenomenon, in which a group of homeless people occupied part of the MIT-owned development site between October and November of 1987. The homeless group demanded they be allowed to live on the land and in three adjacent houses.

The five people assigned to select the book — Yanowitz, Ford, and three students from the executive committee of the Residence/Orientation committee — wanted to cover an issue focusing on "the outside world, because students tend to be sheltered," as MIT, Yanowitz said.

Another reason they selected the book was the variety of other topics, including poverty, education, discrimination, and AIDS, which are brought up by the issue of homelessness, Yanowitz said.

According to Fahey, rush went smoothly this year. A group of about 400 IFC members met the new policy prepared by the executive committee. The representatives were instructed to acquire alcohol for the rush and to enforce the new policy if they were over 21 years of age, until that house closed its door for rush.

In order to better accommodate the new rush regulations, the bylaws of the IFC Judicial Committee were altered slightly, according to IFC JudComm Chairma Maureen Fahey '90. During previous rushes, JudComm representatives were responsible for both spot-checking houses for rush violations and for running the subsequent violation hearings. However, this year JudComm re-organized itself into a group of nine investigative members and six trial council members, so the official duties of the two groups rarely overlapped, Fahey said. This new structure allowed for greater efficiency within JudComm, she said.

According to Fahey, rush went "extremely well," with only minor violations reported.

"The new IFC policy worked fantastically. For the first time ever, houses followed it to the letter," Gerber said.

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Africa's running National Party is proposing reform following a day of heavy losses in an election and promises to claim at least 7 of 520 seats. The National Party received less than half of the vote in Wednesday's parliamentary voting and lost nearly a quarter of the total vote to the rival African National Congress and parts of the South African People's Democratic Party. A spokesman for New England Telephone said the cable was cut about 2:30 am in a first response. Telephone officials said vandalism appeared to be the act of someone who knew what they were doing and that the company had already offered a $500,000 reward for information leading to a conviction. Long-distance telephone service was restored within 15 hours. Leaders of striking telephone workers said the unions involved do not support vandalism, and company officials said they are not placing the blame at anyone.

Barry Sanders signs up with Lions

The three-time All-Pro choice shot at a $2 million upfront bonus, defensive back Deion Sanders has joined the Atlanta Falcons after an eight-year career with the Buffalo Bills. Sanders dominated by a ridge of high pressure. A gradual calming and warming coastal locations back down into the...

Gabrielle heads for the North Atlantic, milder weather returns

As of Thursday evening, Hurricane Gabrielle appeared to be on a track that would take it well off the East Coast. The storm peaked in intensity earlier in the week with maximum winds of 135 mph. As of 6 pm Thursday, the center was located 300 miles east of Bermuda with winds of 105 mph. Large swells of up to 15 feet and some beach erosion have been along the eastern United States coastline. Center to home, our weather will continue to be dominated by a ridge of high pressure. A gradual increase in temperature and in afternoon relative humidity will be experienced over the next two to three days as the ridge moves east. The first significant chance for any measurable precipitation will occur on Monday.

Friday afternoon: Mostly sunny and a bit milder. A sea breeze will develop in the early afternoon. Coastal locations will be onshore for the high 70's. Low 60's. Saturday: Partly cloudy and even milder. High temperatures will range from middle and upper 70's to lower 80's. Low 60-64°F. Sunday: Mostly cloudy and turning cooler late. High 75°F, low 55-60°F.

Colombian drug lord in Atlantic court

Arrangement for a reputed financial wizard of the Medellín cocaine cartel has been made in a federal court in Atlanta, where Eduardo Romero Martinez is being held without bail at an undisclosed site. A federal judge in Atlanta denied a request to release him because he didn't understand the money-laundering charges he faces. Security at the courthouse was heavy, amid concerns that Martinez, who is extradited from Colombia's drug traffickers.

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Don’t forget love in this temple of science

Column by Rev. Scott Paradise

In science, MIT has been a haven of happiness for most of my life. I have been part of the MIT community since I was a student, and it has been a place where I found both friends and soulmates. MIT has been a place where I have learned to be humble and to appreciate the beauty of science. MIT has been a place where I have found the courage to pursue my dreams, and it has been a place where I have found the strength to overcome my fears. MIT has been a place where I have found the strength to tackle the challenges of life, and it has been a place where I have found the strength to live a fulfilling life.

The second challenge has to do with the widening gap between the rich and the poor. It is calculated that the world spends a trillion dollars a year on the military. Some of this money is spent by the wealthy countries to promote their own interests, and the rest is spent by the poor countries to defend their interests. The difference in wealth and power between the rich and the poor is what most of the world’s problems are about. If we are to solve the world’s problems, we must first deal with the problem of wealth and power.

The United States is a leader in this war against the Third World. MIT, far from protesting this war, remains the nation’s second-largest academic military contractor.

Most of the time we don’t speak of love explicitly. But when we talk about justice, peace, economics, technology, education, the human future, we are talking about it implicitly.

Recently MIT has received a good deal of public attention for its special commission’s report on competitiveness. Love suggests to me that MIT might do an even more important bottoms-up study on what might be needed for a more just and cooperative world economic order.
Fraternity poster reveals womanizing attitude

Fraternities and their treatment of women have been in the campus news lately. In their letter, Nu Delta displayed a woman up against a brick wall. Perhaps they'd like to consider a woman up against a brick wall. Another woman, whose state of attire is unclear, stands under a spotlight above. Graffiti on the wall urges us to “GET NU.$.”

The poster is ostensibly an invitation to a video party at 460 Beacon Street. The not-so-hidden intent is clear: join this fraternity and a world of sexual adventure will open up to you. Women are on display and for the having at Nu Delta.

Well, brothers, get a clue! Start thinking with the part of your anatomy that got you into MIT. Women are not objects. They don’t like to be forced against walls. Women are not pieces of bait. They’re not to be used to lure new members to a fraternity. This poster is blatantly sexist. It is outrageous and offensive. If this is representative of fraternal attitudes towards sexism, then the IFC has a lot of work to do in closing the gap between its stated policy and the actual practices of individual fraternities.

Susan Dwyer G
Paul Pietroski G

When Paul Gray speaks, people listen.

Being president of MIT has its advantages. For one, people always want to know your opinion. For as long as Paul Gray is president, and possibly even longer, people will want to know what he thinks.

You might think, then, that your opinions don’t count. After all, who would listen to a student’s opinions, when they can hear what President Gray has to say?

To this, we at The Tech have but one reply: “Rubbish!”

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Information for Returning Users about the New Fall Release (6.3B)
Project Athena has installed Release 6.3B of the system software. In addition to a new Mac-like Motif Window Manager, and an on-line help facility, there is a new graphically-oriented display manager xdm and login process.

Introducing xdm required renaming user customization files ("dot" files) by appending .pref89 to their original names. The process used to do this was designed to ensure the privacy and integrity of the contents each user's files.

Returning users' accounts will be fully functional, although in a system-wide 'default' mode, without any customizations they may have previously introduced. Restoring prior customizations will involve cutting and pasting the contents of old command files into new command files. User documentation describing the new release and how to get your old customization into the new dot files is available on-line and in the public clusters.

For more information about customization with the new dot files, come to the 11-116 Athena workstation cluster. Consultants will be available there to help you on weekday afternoons. Call 3-4435, or check the posters on the 11-115 and 11-116 doors for the precise schedule.

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There will be two information sessions on Monday, Sept 11:
6:7pm for instructors new to using Athena in courses
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Attendance is highly recommended. Both sessions will be in 35-225.

For more information, call the Faculty Liaison Office (x3-0116, x3-0170)

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THE HARVARD COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

FIVE DOLLARS
Syd Straw's Surprise nearly spoiled by poor production

Syd Straw
Virgin Records

By DEBBY LEVINSON

Syd Straw's been stirring for quite some time. After her stint as lead singer of the Golden Palominos and as session vocalist on albums such as the dB's Like This, Straw has finally put out an album of her own.

Straw's studio work and association with the R.E.M.-jangly-guitar underground helped her to recruit a variety of musicians — XY John Doe sings on one track, Richard Thompson lends his guitar flourishes on two songs, and R.E.M. guru Michael Stipe contributes lyrics and vocals to "Future 40's (String of Pearls)." I expected a stellar album from such an impressive cast; instead, I found one ripe with potential, but solery abused by over-production and unsatisfying melodies.

Part of the problem with Surprise is that Straw extended her guest-star approach to the album's production, bringing in no fewer than three producers, not including herself. Even Straw's own efforts are a mixed bag — of the four songs for which she takes sole production credits, only "Future 40's" is truly successful — her treatment of the country tearjerker "Almost Magic" is so layered with her own multitracked voice it tends to marlines rather than the lush harmonies she is after.

The Anthony Moore productions fare no better. Moore drowns the country swag of "Heart of Darkness" in an echo pops ending and brings in a funk melo-dy on "Crazy American" that overpowers Straw's pure voice. To their credit, Moore and Straw deliver a bitter, accusatory version of the dB's "Think Too Hard" that is every bit the equal of the original.

The most disappointing part of Surprise, however, is not its poor production but its unfulfilled potential. Much like 10,000 Maniacs' Natalie Merchant, Straw writes lyrics that read more like prose than

(please turn to page 15)
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The future looked like the 40’s.

Only one other Straw composition manages to match melody to lyrics: "Sphinx," which I heard performed on an IRS Records television program several years ago and which remains as hypnotic now as it was then. For this song, Straw is credited as storyteller, not vocalist — an important distinction. "Sphinx" is a quirky fable set to music, a tale of Straw’s mythical "jinx who had too many drinks." Accompanied by Richard Thompson’s delightful finger-picking guitar and "the yarn interlude" (a spoken-word explanation of Sphinx’s convention on charges of fastfulness), "Sphinx" is charming, a modern fairy tale.

Surprise closes with the ethereal “Gold-Dreams,” a tune with a haunting melody and a delicate tin whistle counterpoint. This song’s simplicity points out the considerable shortcomings of its more complex, less melodic counterparts, however, and left me even less satisfied than before with Surprise. Syd Straw has the talent to produce a first-rate album; it’s a shame that Surprise isn’t the one.

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The Tech Information Systems

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT MIT

ARTS FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Grants Program of the Council for the Arts at MIT is now accepting applications for its first deadline of the 1989-90 academic year on Friday, September 22.

The Council for the arts is a volunteer organization, affiliated with the MIT Office of the Arts, whose members are alumni and friends of the Institute distinguished by their commitment and service to the arts. The Grants Program has been established to encourage creative activity at MIT by providing financial and administrative support to arts projects in all disciplines. Typical projects include the design and production of new work, performances, exhibitions, and cultural programs. Proposals should offer the MIT community opportunities to create, participate in, and learn about the arts.

All applications are reviewed by the Grants Committee of the Council for the Arts; those submitted by MIT students receive primary consideration. Previous experience in the arts is not a requirement for funding. Grant awards range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Remaining deadline dates for 1989-90 are: November 13, February 14 and April 11.

For application forms and Grants Program guidelines, please stop by the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205, Wiesner Building), or call Mark Palgren for more information (x3-4003).

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D. Anick, S. Bird, I. Paul, L. Trilling,
C. Whitbeck

Life and Institutions of Science
8.202J/STS 014J (HASS)
C. Kayser
J. King

AIDS: Scientific Challenge and
Human Challenge
7.00J/15.60J
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NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations are now being requested for the 1989 Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize. Candidates must be members of the MIT Community at the graduate level or beyond who have demonstrated in their work a concern for human values as reflected in the relationship between art and the environment. Graduate students, fellows, faculty and staff from all MIT departments and programs who met the prize criteria are eligible for nomination. The prize is a cash award of $2,000.00. It will be presented on October 20, 1989, at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Council for the Arts at MIT.

Established in 1982 by members and friends of the Council for the Arts, the Kepes Fellowship Prize seeks to encourage and celebrate individuals at the Institute whose work reflects the goals embodied by Gyorgy Kepes, Institute Professor Emeritus. An internationally acclaimed artist, Gyorgy Kepes has revealed fundamental relationships between art and science, art and human values, and art and the physical environment.

Letters of nomination for the Kepes Fellowship Prize should state clearly how the candidate’s work meets the requirements of the award, and must include the address and telephone numbers of both the candidate and the nominator. Self-nominations will not be accepted. All letters of nomination should be addressed to the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize Committee and must be received by September 25, 1989.

For more information, please contact Mark Palegren, Office of the Arts (E15-205), x3-7686.
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