Fraternity rush slightly down
Dorm requests average; Bexley could be fined

By Beverly M. Lerner

Neal B. Dorov, the advisor to fraternities and independent living groups, and Elton S. Levit '90, the staff advisor for resi-
dence programs, sent out a membrane
to dormitories yesterday in
dstructing them to release the
telphone numbers of freshmen temporarily housed there.

The number exceeded with a lower-
than-expected number of
corresponding rooms at the end of
the day of pledging.

Dorow finally denied that the
housing office was using any con-
tingency plans, adding, "The
numbers are behind, but it's not
poor until it's over.... We're
maybe #1 behind the number of
last year. But that doesn't mean
that they won't catch up.

The number decreased to 85
rooms on Friday, according to
Dorov, and the dormitory desk
workers. Dorov said the number
was set at a lower level, although
a MacGregor House desk worker
didn't reach there by 5:30 pm, "but off the premises.

The memo, addressed to the
fraternity directors, house desk
house presidents, and house R/O
calls, explained, "The
rooms turn to page 2"

Newspaper to start soon

By Bill Jackson

A new student newspaper denotated for "informing people of different points of view" planned to begin publication with an issue on September 12.

The name, which was officially recognized by the Association of Student Activities over the summer, plans to feature news, sports, and analysis. Max G. Morris '91, publisher of the
newspaper, says that "One of the things we're doing is this envi-
roment is balanced viewpoints.

The idea for starting a new
newspaper came from a group of friends, said Morris. However, campus posting and word of mouth, the total number of people who have expressed an interest in the
newspaper numbers around 20. Initial posts simply said "Chal-
lege the Politically Correct: new
campus paper forming," and
gave a phone number to contact for
information.

"There are about 10 people actively working on the first
issue," Morris noted. The group
planned to recruit at the Activities
Midway tonight as well.

The 11-tf7-inch, tablet-style
paper will appear around campus
or alternate Thursdays. In addi-
tion, according to Morris, distri-
bution is planned at Wellesley.
"We also plan to test the BU and
Harvard markets and see what
kind of a response we get," added
Morfis.

The pups run for the first issue
was planned at 7:000, which
would make. The Anatomy the third larg-
est student paper at MIT. The
Tech prints approximately 9000
copies of each issue, and The
Thistle estimates an average print run of 8000.

Morris says that the
paper plans to aim for "depth, not
breadth, of coverage. For example, we might have a sports
section covering only one sport in
one week.

The paper also plans to serve a
variety of arts and music coverage,
including books, films and concert
reviews. In addition, there are
plans to post poems, fiction and
general-interest articles from the
MIT community as large.

The long-term, editorial goals of
the new paper include examin-
ation of "social issues in the
MIT environment, fundamental
issues of MIT and a national and
international view of topics," according to Morris.

Fraternity rush slightly down

Dorm requests average; Bexley could be fined

By Beverly M. Lerner

Neal B. Dorov, the advisor to fraternities and independent living groups, and Elton S. Levit '90, the staff advisor for residence programs, sent out a memorandum to dormitories yesterday instructing them to release the telephone numbers of freshmen temporarily housed there.

The number exceeded with a lower-than-expected number of pledges at IGCs at the end of the first day of pledging.

Dorov finally denied that the housing office was using any contingency plans, adding, "the numbers are behind, but it's not poor until it's over.... We're maybe #1 behind the number of last year. But that doesn't mean that they won't catch up.

The memorandum, dated yesterday, reached dormitories between 7 and 8 pm, according to dormitory desk workers. Dorov said the memorandum was sent at a lower level, although a MacGregor House desk worker said that it reached there by 5:30 pm, "but off the premises.

The memo, addressed to "fraternity directors, house desk house presidents, and house R/O chairs," explained, "The rooms turn to page 2"

Fewer wait for grad housing

By Lakshman Rao

Incoming graduate students had a much easier time finding on-campus housing this year than in previous years.

According to Queen Zena, an administrative assistant at the housing office, new graduate stu-
dents were asked if they would prefer to live on campus. Dormitory space was given to almost all of those who asked for it. Zena said, "Currently, the maximum waiting list number for freshmen arriving at admission to any graduate housing complex is 40," she added.

This is a sharp decline from last year, when the waiting list was over 150 names long.

This year marks the comple-
tion of the first year of a new graduate housing policy. Accord-
ing to this policy, graduate students are given one-year university housing on campus, after which they have to apply for tenured housing spots.

In this year's new gradu-
ate students agree that they did not have much difficulty in finding on-campus housing. "I was assured of a spot at Ashdown House by the housing this year," said Ethan McKinnon, a new graduate student in political science.

Ravi Sundaram G, a new stu-
dent in the Department of Elec-
trical Engineering and Computer Science, was not given a housing assignment, but was told to apply as soon as he arrived on campus.

One day after doing so, he
was given a permanent housing assignment in Tang Hall.

Housing scare is unrealistic

"The realities of the housing situation are far different from the impression that we were given," said Andrew Keshavan G, who will be studying in the Department of Ocean Engineering.

"I was told by the housing office on my arrival that there was almost impossible to get," when I contacted them on [the date], but he was allocated housing a day after my arrival on [the date]." McKinnon added.

"The basic information supplied by the housing office regarding the details of facilities available in each house are insuffi-
cient to make a proper choice of housing," McKinnon said. "I could have come in better prepared for my accommodation if I had better information on availability and the bed sizes had been available to me before hand," he explained.

All new graduate students must move in with the help of their halls, before receiving their assignment. "There is a long wait outside the office these days," he added.

The housing office may serve the new graduate students better if they increase their staff during these peak periods," Keshavan sug-
gested.

New graduate students who arrive early on campus are tempo-
arily accommodated in the Ashdown House barracks. "The space is fairly overcrowded, but lack the facilities to share or live in dorm rooms," said McKinnon.

"There should be greater care given to the condition of the space," he added. "This is an improvement from last year," McKinnon said.

"The rooms are well cleaned and vacuumed before they are occupied by a new person in [the date]. It is far better than it was last year," he added.

"I used to live in the room in [the date], and this was almost impossible to get," when I contacted them on [the date], but I was allocated housing a day after my arrival on [the date]." McKinnon added.

"The basic information supplied by the housing office regarding the details of facilities available in each house are insuffi-
cient to make a proper choice of housing," McKinnon said. "I could have come in better prepared for my accommodation if I had better information on availability and the bed sizes had been available to me before hand," he explained.

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Frosh satisfied with R/O

The Class of '95 attempts what is hoped to be a record-setting "lap-sit" in Killian Court last Friday.

(Continued from page 1)

ODSA [Office of the Dean for Student Affairs] is relaxing its restriction against releasing frosh phone numbers to fraternity representatives. Before bids were extended, it was important that frosh not be called on mass to attend dozens of events, etc. However, at this point it is important that freshmen resolve complaints.

important that fraternities resolve complaints. There was a mini-rebellion, so the restriction against releasing frosh phone numbers is being lifted.

ODSA [Office of the Dean for Student Affairs] is relaxing its restriction against releasing frosh phone numbers to fraternity representatives. Before bids were extended, it was important that frosh not be called on mass to attend dozens of events, etc. However, at this point it is important that freshmen resolve complaints.

Last Friday, the Class of '95 attempts what is hoped to be a record-setting "lap-sit" in Killian Court last Friday.

Several dormitories have already decided to modify or ignore the request. As East Campus desk-worker said that the dormitory would only connect ILGs to freshmen who had already received bids. MacGregor went even further, saying that they would ask the permission of any freshmen contacted before connecting them with a calling ILG.

But other ILGs reported tremendous difficulties as of last night. Clearinghouse reported that two — Alpha Delta Pi and Student House — had pledged only one new student each, from pools of 12 and 8 respectively.

Dorow explained that the low numbers reflect a number of people unsure of what they want to do, not necessarily a bad rush. "I've been calling the houses, and they're sitting on a lot of people — it's just that the guys haven't said, 'I pledge.' If we're way behind on Thursday or Friday... then we can say it looks like people have made a decision," he said.

In related news, Dorow said that sorority rush, which concluded early this morning, had gone extremely well, and that each sorority would receive 29 new pledges.

Dorm preference cards turned in Freshmen, meanwhile, turned in their dormitory preference cards yesterday, indicating in which dormitory they would prefer to live.

One of the biggest differences between dormitory selection this year and in the past is a computer program, written in part by Levit, that automates the housing process. Until this year, dormitory assignments had been made at a meeting between various dormitory representatives and institute staff.

Please turn to page 15.
Bush recognizes Baltic states

President George Bush today recognized Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia as independent nations, saying that Russia and the United States would work together in the future. The recognition was announced after the leaders of the three countries met in Helsinki.

Bush administration officials said the move was prompted by the success of the Baltic states in transitioning to democracy and市场经济.

Baltic states had long been seen as a model for other post-communist countries in the region. The recognition by the US is seen as an important step in the normalization of relations between the West and Eastern Europe.

East German border guards

go on trial in Berlin

A trial in Berlin is a reminder of the days before the fall of the Berlin Wall. East German border guards are being tried for the killing of a man who tried to escape across the Berlin Wall in 1989. One defense attorney said the guards had done nothing wrong, while the prosecution argued that the guards had violated international law.

Chinese warn against democracy

China's hard-line communists are urging party members to resist pressure from abroad to hold elections and adopt a democratic constitution. Chinese Premier Li Peng reportedly told Major the situation is not the same as in the Soviet Union. Major is the first Western leader to visit China since the army crushed pro-democracy demonstrations two years ago.

EC sponsors another

Yugoslavian peace initiative

A true brokered by the European Community is being put in place to in Yugoslavia. A conference of the heads of state of the countries of the former Yugoslavia is being called for next month, with the aim of consolidating peace and stability in the region.
Opinion

Lose the dead weight

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

Looking at the world in my own bizarre way, I always try to avoid the anger and hatred that manage to rip the soul out of even the most well-meaning inhabitants of this planet. Well, most of the time, anyway. But over the summer something caught my eye, and made me want to scream.

No, it wasn't Singapore.

When British hostage John McCarthy and, later, American Edward A. Tracy were released from captivity in early August, the news media was filled with such delightfully meaningless hoopla. That these courageous men survived during their years of imprisonment to see freedom once again is certainly newsworthy. But their odyssey, now almost forgotten, was warped in the news in a needless, destructive, dangerous way - endangering the lives of the hostages who still remain in the Mideast and setting some nasty precedents for future responses to terrorist acts.

As pictures of flags and salutes and cheerful crowds flowed via satellite to the United States, everyone, it seems, was forgetful. A host of American and international officials who espouse the military plans for hostage rescues and whose impotence left much of the Middle East community paralyzed in the face of terrorism, began forwarding the message that former captives' hands with pride. The US State Department, in an Mideast release, boasted of its establishment of a special committee to welcome American hostages.

What does that mean, anyway? Even the Syrian and Iranian governments, who kidnapped the hostages in the first place, were cheered for letting them go.

There is so much cheering, in fact, that one might easily forget that concomitantly, we're being held against their will, and that people are still trying to kill Salmon Rushdie for writing a book they didn't like.

And then I watched the news and got angry.

The official reason for McCarthy's release had been to relay a written statement from Islamic Jihad, the terrorist organization which held McCarthy, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, a politician famous for his collection of Leonard Fournier. In front of an eager world press, McCarthy presented the letter to de Cuellar. Looking like a goofy Ed McMahon, de Cuellar stood there, grinning stupidly and checking the moment's letter like a check for $50,000 from Publisher's Clearing House. With cameras flashing and tape rolling, de Cuellar then stood there with the rationale - marvelous - visibly uncomfortable with his situation, yet doing nothing to rectify it.

Politicians may be forced to do a damnable deed in their careers, but my question is: Do they have to like it?

With a gun at his head and the lives of fellow captives at stake, McCarthy was forced to become a perverse mouthpiece - a messenger-boy for his tormentors, delivering an unsavory message from individuals who, by their actions, deserve no audience.

That McCarthy was paraded on TV in performance of this death duty more than perturbed me. Don't we owe him more than that? De Cuellar greeted the terrorists' demands almost gracefully. Can we tolerate that?

Was it a concern for the lives of other hostages - some kind of sneaky altruism - that produced this ten-second photo spot on the evening news, an absurd picture of a victim and a dolittle gently caring a ransom note like a letter from home?

I asked myself how de Cuellar should have handled himself. Did he need to welcome the note in that pointless display, only to realize his error and condemn the delivery of the terrorist's letter have been relegated to a brief comment by UN officials - just public enough for the terrorists to see their mission had been accomplished, but just obscure enough to avoid legitimizing the terrorists' actions?

What does that mean, anyway? Even the Syrian and Iranian governments, who kidnapped the hostages in the first place, were cheered for letting them go.

That note was little more than an extortion piece.

How could be recognize Islamic Jihad in this way, rewarding it for its hostages-taking?

Can we blame the journalists who reported this soundover and over again? Do we owe the terrorists anything for returning to McCarthy what they so rudely stole from him five years ago? Is there not something higher at stake - like dignity, honor, and truth, and justice, and the lives of all the people who might never have been taken hostage if, this time, we react to terrorism with strength and not the timidity, goofy smiling, and wish-washiness that has failed us in the past? Should McCarthy, or de Cuellar, for that matter, have burned that letter and when they realized the terrorist's letter was a respect diplomat, roaring so poorly? Was he trying to be diplomatic, or was he saying, "That was a wasted effort, it didn't work, I was in a hurry, I had to fill the spot?"

Matthew H. Hersch, a sophomorh at associate opinion editor of The Tech.
Politics inevitably enter into choosing a justice

Column by K. Ranganathan

It is interesting to look through the recent discussion in the mass media regarding the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. We are told that it is possible to objectively evaluate Thomas' competence. That is, we should know whether Thomas has learned the legal system, in the same way as we might expect a macon, carpenter or dentist to have learned their respective trades.

President George Bush has said that Thomas is "highly qualified." According to The New York Times, Bush once defined a qualified judge as, among other things, people who "should try to expunge from his or her reasoning all influences other than legal arguments. . . . Such reasoning is not from his or her legal system, in the same way that we might expect a macon, carpenter or dentist to have learned their respective trades. Those who have learned the legal system, in the same way as we might expect a macon, carpenter or dentist to have learned their respective trades.

We should learn Thomas' beliefs on capital punishment, legal aid for the poor, police powers (such as search and seizure), abortion, birth control and free speech, and argue for or against such views. Judges are supposed to make decisions based solely on the actions and circumstances of the litigators, independent of who they are. Choosing a judge thus depends on the decisions he or she would take given certain actions and circumstances, rather than criteria that aim to be independent of those decisions.

The appointment of a judge takes place through a representative democratic system, so that the brand of justice meted out depends on the decisions he or she would take given certain actions and circumstances independent of those decisions. Who they are. Choosing a judge thus depends on the decisions he or she would take given certain actions and circumstances independent of those decisions.
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- The Science and Humanities Library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. Check with your reference librarian for the hours of other libraries.
- The Sloan Computer Center, located in Building 32, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.
- The MIT Student Union, located in Building 10, is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.

Meeting Times

The Tech Model Railroad Club meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Room E1-252. The club is always looking for new members.

The MIT Folk Dance Club meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Killian Court. Interested students are encouraged to attend.

The MIT Debate Union meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Room 45-131. The club is open to all students, regardless of their level of experience.

Announcements

- Project Context: Undergraduates who are interested in participating in a course focused on sexual harassment and violence against women are invited to contact Project Context. For more information, call 212-321-4040.

- The Cambridge District Solicitor has announced that it is investigating a series of rapes in the area. Residents are encouraged to report any incidents.

- Harvard University Graduate School of Design is offering a new program in urban design. For more information, call 617-495-1920.

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The Cause at the Black Rose in Cambridge; 343 Western Ave., Cambridge. See Sep. 11 listing.

Roll With It' Jumpin' Theatre, Harvard University.

Furnished Rooms

--

The Manhattan Transfer and Joey DeFrancesco at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

Sunday, Sep. 8

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

• • • CRITICS' CHOICE • • •

The Speedy Thrusters perform at the 21st Century (tel. 266-4187).

LATE NIGHTS

The Brandenburger Babies perform at 9:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Room, 1229 34th Street, Washington, D.C. Telephone: 583-4121.

JAZZ MUSIC


The Boston Jazz Band performs at the 21st Century (tel. 266-4187).

Debbie Kochman Group performs at The Crazy Horse Saloon, 780 Main Street, Salem, Massachusetts. Telephone: 626-4218.

Ruf Colington, the American singer, performs at 8:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Room, 1229 34th Street, Washington, D.C. Telephone: 583-4121.

Authentic Blues, performed by the 21st Century, 267-9300.

The Brandenburger Babies perform at 8:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Room, 1229 34th Street, Washington, D.C. Telephone: 583-4121.

On October 12, the Boston Jazz Band performs at the 21st Century, Cambridge. Telephone: 244-4256.

Jazz: The Man, The Legend, performed by the 21st Century, Cambridge. Phone: 244-4256.

JAZZ MUSIC

Joe Williams at the Blue Mill, 21 3rd Street, Cambridge. Telephone: 228-8816.

The Jazz Garden performs at 8:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Room, 1229 34th Street, Washington, D.C. Telephone: 583-4121.

2:30 and 7:30-and Ball of Fire (Howard Hawks, 1941), starring Lucille Ball and her dance partner, Fred Astaire.

The Brattle Theatre begins its Sunday series of Contemporary Music with a screening of the film "Amadeus," starring Tom Hulce as Mozart and Faye Dunaway as a wealthy music collector. The film screening is followed by the performance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. at the Symphony Hall, 655 Boylston Street, Boston. Telephone: 426-6912.


The Ocean Blue and John Wesley Greene perform at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

On Sunday, Sep. 9

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

• • • CRITICS' CHOICE • • •

The Manhattan Transfer and Joey DeFrancesco perform at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

JAZZ MUSIC


On Saturday, Sep. 14

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

• • • CRITICS' CHOICE • • •

The Manhattan Transfer and Joey DeFrancesco perform at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

JAZZ MUSIC


On Saturday, Sep. 21

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

• • • CRITICS' CHOICE • • •

The Manhattan Transfer and Joey DeFrancesco perform at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

JAZZ MUSIC


On Sunday, Sep. 22

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

• • • CRITICS' CHOICE • • •

The Manhattan Transfer and Joey DeFrancesco perform at the Cambridge Center, 267-9300. Telephone: 267-9300.

JAZZ MUSIC


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Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
The Mitt Musical Theatre Guild, Directed by Tarik AlEsab, starring Michael G. Friedhoft '90, Jeanette Ryan, Daniel Auderers G, and Deborah Wrighton. Krave Little Theatre, Sep. 3-7 and Sep. 12-14. 8 pm.

By ELAINE MCCORMICK

The Musical Theatre Guild opened its fall season with Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, a morbid, but intriguing, tale about Todd, the fastest, cleanest shaver in all of London (and not a bad murderer either), and his delightfully amoral landlady, Mrs. Lovett, who turns Todd's victims into luminous pies.

The musical opens with Todd (Michael G. Friedhoft '90), who has just returned from 15 years in Australia after being deported for life on a trumped-up charge by Judge Turpin (David Harrison), who had the hots for his own daughter, the pie business boom, easily turn into extra bodies, which help with what she has. The way Ryan plays Mrs. Lovett merely runs her business-making duets, such as in "Pretty Women" with Judge Turpin. And it's with obvious relish that he and Ryan share one of the funniest musical duets ever written: "A Little Priest." In this macabre but hilarious set piece, they discuss the relative qualities of various tradesten when incorporated into pies, concluding that sailor is too salty, politician is oily, but "everyone goes down well with beer."

All of the characters have solos in which they shine, especially the Beggar Woman (Deborah Knezev '91), with her outstanding voice and impeccable timing, and the Beadle (Courtney Nation) with his rich, smooth tenor. But Sweeney Todd also has his less great moments. Pie shop helper Tobias' (Elan Lorentz '92) solo, "Not While I'm Around," despite her clear, sweet voice, is long and somewhat tedious. The duet between Mrs. Lovett and the Beggar Woman, "Wait," also seems to last longer than the time it takes to sing. The chorus' songs are uneven in quality, some excellent, and some, well, not so excellent.

Also, since the chorus, as the ghosts of Todd's victims, is painted in greenish-gray makeup and tends to stare sternly, their scenes have a morbid, heavy tone, which is somewhat disorienting. The orchestra, when playing its lively, lively, dreary music, adds some of the women's solos, plays unpleasantly out of tune. However, since the score is extremely disorienting and syncopated, there is a reassuring element of mystery as to how off the orchestra really is. The set, composed of rusty gas barrels, broken air conditioners, bent car grilles, and odd pieces of rope, has a low-rent Dostoevski look to it. Unfortunately, the large metal objects take up quite a bit of space, leaving the remaining acting area somewhat cramped and constrained. When the 20-member cast is all on stage, they can barely move. Dancing is impossible. Despite the flaws, if you're in the mood for a ghoulish, but witty, musical, Sweeney Todd is good to see. You done walk out of the theater whistling the songs, but the scenes stay with you. And you'll think about it the next time you bite into a hot dog.

Todd's motives are easy to understand: he is a man without a couple. But Mrs. Lovett merely runs her business, making duet with what she has. The way Ryan plays her with a complete lack of remorse is absolutely charming. However, it's Friedhoft, besides having the funniest bio in the program ("They say that a car is stolen in Boston every ten minutes. That car belongs to Mike."), who carries the show. He plays Todd with an ease and self-assurance that is quite impressive. And he has a strong voice in his solos and yet sounds well during duets, such as in "Pretty Women" with Judge Turpin. And it's with obvious relish that he and Ryan share one of the funniest musical duets ever written: "A Little Priest." In this macabre but hilarious set piece, they discuss the relative qualities of various tradesmen when incorporated into pies, concluding that sailor is too salty, politician is oily, but "everyone goes down well with beer."

Sharice Acker, the Beggar Woman, is long and somewhat tedious. The Beggar Woman's solos are a morbid but intriguing tale about Todd, the fastest, cleanest shaver in all of London (and not a bad murderer either), and his delightfully amoral landlady, Mrs. Lovett, who turns Todd's victims into luminous pies.

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