

Housing Lottery Off to Shaky Start

By Jennifer Lane
STAFF REPORTER

The computerized housing lottery was delayed an hour yesterday, causing much frustration among the freshmen who had flocked to the Athena clusters at 4 p.m. to enter their preferences.

"They're expecting 1,000 people to run this by tomorrow?" asked David Wang '99. "At this rate, it's never going to happen."

However, once the program was fixed, most students found it easy to use.

S. Anders Oakland, a programmer for Information Systems who wrote the lottery program, originally thought that it crashed because too many people were trying to access the program at once.

The problem was actually a compiling error caused when he added an assignment field to the program, Oakland said.

"Once I figured out what was going on, it was an easy fix," Oakland said. "It's scary when the entire freshmen class is trying to use your program, and it dies," he said.

Lottery deadline 3 p.m. today

Freshmen should enter their

dorm preferences into the lottery by 3 p.m. today. The system can be activated from a student's personal Athena account by typing "add forms; froshpref &"

One potential problem is that after registering for an Athena account, it takes a full day for that account to become fully active.

Oakland said that if your account is not yet fully active, you can still enter the dormitory lottery with the help of one of the consultants in the clusters.

The program allows for students to enter roommate groups of up to four people, Oakland said. Roommates should all enter the same housing choices. Ideally, all members of a roommate group should be present when one of them runs the program, Oakland said.

Altogether, there are 15 choices for women and 14 for men in the housing lottery, comprising 10 dormitories, Chocolate City, and four language houses. Men may not choose McCormick Hall.

Huntington Hall, a dormitory near Northeastern University that MIT leased for the last two years, is

Lottery, Page 7



Lisa R. Kinder '99 and Jin S. Kim '99 took a break from dormitory tours yesterday afternoon to bounce around in the inflatable castle set up in MacGregor House's courtyard.

Clearinghouse System Keeps Track of Freshmen; One Hides

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time ever since the start of the Clearinghouse computer system used during rush, a freshman exercised his right to be made invisible on the system.

Clearinghouse is used to track freshmen as they move among living groups. During rush, all freshmen must check in and out of any residence they visit, said Jonathan Z. Litt '96, chair of the Residence and Orientation Week Clearinghouse Committee.

Information about a freshman's

whereabouts "is immediately available," so the system lets living groups track down freshmen quickly during rush and provides a way for freshmen to be reached during emergencies, Litt said.

Frosh asks for invisibility

This year is the first time since the inception of Clearinghouse that a freshman has been asked to be made invisible to living groups, Litt said.

Students can make themselves invisible to living groups in Clearinghouse by contacting the Resi-

dence and Campus Activities Office in W20-549.

Erik C. Snowberg '99 asked to be made invisible after Alpha Epsilon Pi bothered him with excessive visits and phone calls, he said. According to Snowberg, members of AEPi came by on three separate occasions to ask him if he wanted to come back to the fraternity with them.

On one occasion, Snowberg was taking a shower at Theta Chi, where he had stayed overnight, when

Clearinghouse, Page 7

FSILGs Feel Rush Is Successful So Far

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

Fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups have been enjoying a successful rush this week.

In particular, sororities have benefited from a larger percentage of females in the freshman class. "They did see an increased number," said Neal H. Dorow, adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

"I think that one of the best things about rush is you get to meet a lot of freshmen. They get to meet a lot of upperclass women," said Soyoung Kang '96, rush chair of Alpha Phi.

"In that respect, I feel [rush has] been very successful," Kang said. "We're really excited for the future of women at MIT."

Kang would not speculate on the possible number of pledges until after the end of rush.

"It's going well except for the chaos going out there" when the Panhellenic Association computer system crashed, said Panhel Rush Chair Renee E. Garcia '96.

Members and rush chairs from Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Epsilon Phi, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Sigma Kappa refused to comment on the record.

The Women's Independent Living Group had slightly fewer women visiting than last year, said WILG member Risa H. Wechsler '96.

"I'm not at all displeased," Wechsler said. "I think that one thing is that the dorm preferences are allowed to go in today which

has made some people go to the dorms earlier," she said.

Pika, a coeducational ILG, has had more women visit their house, said Rush Chair James A. Boiani '96. However, Pika is extending fewer bids because fewer spots are available than the previous year.

Although more women have been looking at Pika, "We've seen about as many men as last year," Boiani said.

Fraternity rush remains strong

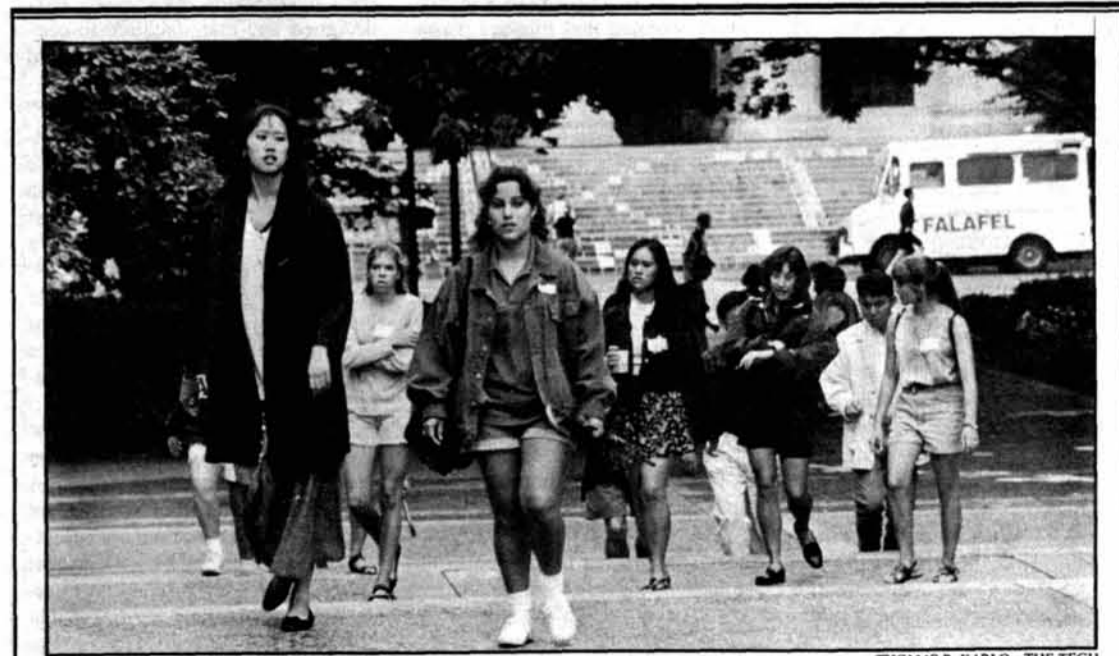
Despite facing a freshmen class with a smaller male percentage, fraternity rush still is going well.

"Everything appears to be going on as normal. People are overnighting, taking trips," Dorow said. "I don't hear anyone concerned about not enough people rushing," he said.

Dorow cited last year's successful rush despite a then-record 40 percent female class. "[The percentage of females] didn't seem to affect the overall number at all," he said.

"We've extended the same number of bids [as last year] so far,"

Rush, Page 7



THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

Sorority women return with freshman women from Informals off the MIT campus yesterday afternoon. See story page 6.

INSIDE

- Sorority rush explained. Page 6
- Institutional Wisdom Watch. Page 4

WORLD & NATION

Upcoming Women's Conference Runs into Multiple Snags

NEWSDAY

Even before it opens, the World Conference on Women has generated political problems, many of them unrelated to the issues expected to dominate the largest-ever U.N. conference when it convenes in Beijing next week.

One hurdle was removed with China's release of imprisoned Chinese-American human-rights activist Harry Wu last week, clearing the way for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to attend the conference as honorary chairwoman of the U.S. delegation. Some human-rights groups had demanded that she boycott the conference to protest Wu's incarceration on espionage charges.

In other snags, Beijing faced criticism when it moved some of the conferees' meetings 35 miles outside the capital in an attempt to avoid protests. It also has denied or held up visas for some of the delegates.

Safe sex and family planning are the core concerns of many activists who will attend the conference.

The Vatican said supporters of contraception and abortion have been devaluing the role that family and motherhood play in the lives of women.

The delegates will deal with specific problems including domestic violence in the United States, sex trafficking in Colombia, bride-burning in India and war crimes in Russia along with general issues such as securing equal wages, primary health facilities and education for women all over the world.

Israel Guards Jericho As It Seeks To Extradite Bomb Suspects

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERICHO, WEST BANK

Israel Sunday maintained a tight seal around this West Bank enclave of Palestinian self-rule in an effort to force Yasser Arafat to turn over a pair of wanted Islamic militants, six days after a Jerusalem bus bombing in which Israel alleges the two men had a part.

Israeli authorities also announced the arrest of dozens of activists of the militant Islamic Hamas movement and said they had foiled plans to carry out more suicide attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. One of those arrested helped plan an attack in December in which a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip wounded 13 people at a Jerusalem bus stop, a police statement said.

Even as it mounted a virtual siege in Jericho, with a "no exceptions" ban on traffic in and out, Israel turned over eight more government powers to the Palestinian Authority elsewhere in the West Bank. Arafat's self-rule government is gradually assuming civilian governance of the occupied territories, and an agreement signed in Cairo Sunday gave it regulatory power over agriculture, postal services, insurance, energy, industry and commerce, labor, municipal affairs and statistics.

In still another sign of these perplexing times in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle, Israel threatened Sunday to close three quasi-governmental Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem. With a year remaining before they negotiate the city's "permanent status," Israel and the Palestinian Authority are battling over symbols of sovereignty in that portion of the city captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War.

Sunday Police Minister Moshe Shahal declared that the Palestinian broadcast authority, a health council and an office of statistics in East Jerusalem were official organs of the Palestinian Authority, and therefore forbidden by the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian accord to operate in the city. He gave them 96 hours to cease operations and said he would close them forcibly after that.

Hearings Clarify Where Whitewater Prosecutors Are Heading

THE WASHINGTON POST WASHINGTON

In better days, they were the movers and shakers surrounding Bill Clinton, the vibrant young Democratic governor of Arkansas. They ran small banks and free-spending savings and loan associations, set up interconnected corporations and embarked on grand business and real estate ventures, often backed by shaky financing.

Now many of Clinton's close associates from the 1980s have fallen victim to the labyrinthine Whitewater scandal, the investigation named for the first couple's Ozarks real estate flop. The probe has rocked Arkansas' political circles and snared businessmen and lawyers who have not even a vague connection to the Whitewater Development Corp., in which Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton were half partners.

Recent congressional hearings into the failure of a savings and loan run by the Clintons' business partner in Whitewater offered a clearer picture than the public has had before of the kind of documentary evidence available to Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr — and the directions it might be taking him.

What happens next is largely a matter of prosecutorial discretion. Starr's office always had the mission of looking beyond the Ozarks to get to the bottom of a series of disparate charges swirling around the Clintons, who, except for millions of dollars of legal fees, have not been touched by the investigation.

WEATHER

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Today: Sunny, high around 70°F (21°C). Wind becoming south-east around 10 mph (16 kph).

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 55-60°F (13-15°C). Northeast winds around 10 mph (16 kph).

California's Disasters Won't Damage Wilson's Campaign

By Cathleen Decker
LOS ANGELES TIMES

You've heard it all before. California, where the dream has turned into a nightmare. The place where serial murderers come to murder, gangs to rampage, flakes to flake, nature to vent its rage with earthquakes, floods and fires. Where housing prices plummet, the economy founders and counties stand in line at the bankruptcy court.

So why would anyone from this sun-kissed Sodom have a chance to be elected president, much less a guy on whose watch California has suffered \$26 billion worth of disasters?

Because, political analysts say, the state's political importance has survived intact despite its slide toward the abyss.

As Gov. Pete Wilson Monday formally announces his bid for the presidency, most political analysts believe California's turn for the worse will have little impact on the governor because it will be difficult to blame him alone for every hit the state has taken.

The bottom line, it seems, is still the numbers. California was home to almost 11 percent of those who cast ballots in the 1992 presidential election, more than any other state. Ditto its role in campaign finance: Californians donated 12 percent of the contributions of \$200 or larger made to candidates in the 1992 primaries, according to federal records.

It is still the state with the mostest, at least as far as electoral votes — 54 — are concerned. And, to put it bluntly, there is not a politician alive who thinks President Clinton can win a second term without California's support unless the race is drastically redrawn.

So even if Wilson cannot count

on winning California — and recent polls have him losing there in prospective primary and general election match-ups — he still comes into the race bearing a presumption of some clout.

The biblical nature of the state's recent disasters has not changed that. Indeed, California's troubles have become Exhibit A in Wilson's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. As he joked recently in New Hampshire, and repeats most places he campaigns:

"A friend of mine says I understand very well why you're running for president. Having presided over 22 natural disasters in California, it's the logical next step on a career of masochism."

If he cannot be blamed for most of the disasters, Wilson is trying to reap their political benefit by convincing voters that anyone who can govern a state with this many problems, man-made and natural, has the necessary experience and will to run the nation. That sense of, well, pride in California's recent chaos also has infected other members of the governor's staff.

One pointed out, when asked, that since Wilson became governor 4½ years ago, "every single county" has been declared a state of emergency at one time or another, some of them more than once.

"A pretty amazing record, certainly unequaled in any state in the union," the aide offered somewhat boastfully.

Sally Novetzke, a Wilson volunteer and political veteran from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, says voters in that first-caucus state are surprisingly well-informed about the governor's tenure in California. (Though few of them thought enough of Wilson to trek to the recent straw

poll in Ames, where he placed a dismal eighth). She suggested that, overall, the challenges he has faced in California help his candidacy.

"Most of us look at California as a mini-United States. Geographically and demographically, you have everything the other 49 states have," she said. "If you're going to elect a governor, please let it be from a state large enough to handle the problems the U.S. has experienced."

While Novetzke is charmingly polite, that last comment could reasonably be taken as a slam against former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who is running against Wilson for the GOP nomination. It also resurrects the often-heard insult leveled by Republicans against then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton in 1992: "The failed governor of a small state."

There is evidence, however, to bolster Novetzke's contention: Two of the nation's last six presidents — Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan — have come from California. They are the only presidents since the 1950s to be elected to two terms. The former governor of a smaller state, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, lost his re-election bid and the jury is still out on Clinton's second term.

The only California candidate to suffer an enduringly bad rap is former Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr., who in his repeated runs for the presidency came to define flakiness in some quarters — and prescience in others. He did, after all, champion things like recycling and classroom computers 20 years before they became suburban staples. And he spent the 1992 campaign arguing for a flat income tax — something that Republican candidates are championing this time around.

Despite ABC's Apology, FDA To Keep Up Anti-Tobacco War

By John Schwartz
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

"Apology accepted," the full-page ad read. Paid for by tobacco giant Philip Morris Cos., it crowded about the much-publicized apology by ABC for allegations made in a 1994 broadcast about whether the tobacco giant "spikes" its tobacco filler by adding nicotine from outside sources.

The network made a carefully worded apology last week for the spiking charges, but stood by what it insisted was the "main thrust" of the program — that the tobacco companies "control the levels of nicotine in cigarettes in order to keep people smoking."

The Philip Morris ad, however, suggested that the ABC apology had broader implications. The ad stated, "As for the group of people who eagerly embraced the 'spiking' allegation to serve their ongoing crusade against the tobacco industry — we stand ready to accept their apologies as well."

Was the ad referring to the Food and Drug Administration, which has embarked on an effort to regulate tobacco products to reduce underage smoking? Philip Morris official Charles R. Wall said in a recent interview that the FDA initiative "was based on, in large measure, the charges on the 'Day One' broadcast," and added, "I think it will have an effect — it should have an effect" — on the regulatory plan and on the new wave of lawsuits against the industry.

Asked what other apologies might be forthcoming, and whether he expected apologies from the FDA, Wall said, "Believe me I'm not hanging by my phone."

On that, at least, Wall and the FDA agree. In a statement released last week, the agency said the ABC apology would not affect its efforts to regulate the tobacco industry. "Internal industry documents demonstrate the industry's long-standing knowledge of and extensive research on the significant ... effects of nicotine," the FDA said. "FDA's investigation revealed that tobacco manufacturers actively control the amount and rate at which nicotine from marketed cigarettes and smokeless tobacco is delivered to consumers."

The agency's exhaustive review of tobacco industry publications and internal papers began long before the ABC broadcast and went further, producing more than 100,000 pages of documentation to back up FDA claims.

"It's never been about spiking," said FDA official Mitch Zeller. "Spiking or not, it's the deliberate control of nicotine levels" that interests the agency.

The FDA contends that tobacco companies — by adjusting the blend of tobaccos and fillers used, the chemical additives introduced in the manufacturing process, the papers used to wrap the cigarette, filter characteristics and other factors — determine the attributes of each cigarette, providing the consistency that is the essence of any successful consumer product. So, too, is the dose of nico-

tine carefully controlled, whether solely for flavor — as the industry contends — or for its drug effects. That ability to control nicotine delivery is evident on every pack of cigarettes, where for more than 20 years the Federal Trade Commission has required cigarette makers to post the nicotine yield of their products.

"Cigarettes are not simply cut tobacco rolled into a paper tube," the FDA declared in its Federal Register filings on tobacco regulation. "Modern cigarettes, as sold in the United States, are painstakingly designed and manufactured to control the amount of nicotine delivered to the smoker."

It's hard to find the word "spike" in the hundreds of pages of FDA filings on tobacco regulation in the Federal Register. The only citation found by a Washington Post reporter was from an article by a tobacco industry scientist, D.W. DeJong, who wrote in a 1985 article in *Tabak Journal International* that higher-nicotine American tobaccos can be blended with low-yield cigarette blends to "spike" the mix.

Much of the agency's evidence of nicotine manipulation came from Philip Morris itself. When FDA officials toured a Philip Morris plant last year as part of their investigation of the industry, they found that the company was so intent on refuting the ABC spiking argument that company officials carefully laid out their methods of controlling nicotine levels in cigarettes — which the agency had already decided was the focus of its inquiry.

Experts Question Effectiveness Of Nuclear Weapons over Time

By Ralph Vartabedian
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ALAMOS, N.M.

President Clinton laid down U.S. nuclear weapons policy in July 1994, saying: "We will continue to maintain nuclear forces of sufficient size and capability to hold at risk a broad range of assets valued by such (hostile) political and military leaders."

The problem is how to assure the reliability and safety of these forces without testing, and how to retain the expertise of scientists when nuclear weapons are neither being designed nor produced.

A nuclear bomb contains roughly 6,000 parts, including 50 pounds of high explosives wrapped around a radioactive plutonium sphere. Jas Mercer-Smith, a Los Alamos National Laboratory scientist, compares nuclear bombs to a 747 jetliner in terms of technical sophistica-

tion. Is it possible, Mercer-Smith asks, to park a 747 for two or three decades and have 100 percent confidence that the engines would start and the plane would fly at a moment's notice? Some nuclear weapons are more than 20 years old, and experts say the bombs can go no more than 30 years without being torn apart and updated.

Scientists are increasingly worried that plastic explosives in the bombs will chemically change over decades, plutonium pits will corrode and electronic components will degrade during exposure to radioactivity.

The archive now being compiled by weapons experts — the Knowledge Preservation Project — will preserve know-how that should help to assuage these doubts. The library, for example, will allow scientists to compare bomb compo-

nents as they age to the original design and examine old test data to see how anomalies may have affected bomb performance.

In addition, the Energy Department's \$40-billion "stockpile stewardship" program will construct massive testing machines, including the \$1-billion National Ignition Facility laser at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif., and the \$124-million Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrotest Facility at Los Alamos.

Despite 50 years of research, scientists say they have only a primitive understanding of the precise physics that occur in a nuclear detonation. These machines will conduct high-energy experiments that simulate conditions in a nuclear bomb, allowing scientists to refine computations that are central to weapon science.

Prisoners Now Comprise 2.7 Percent Of Total U.S. Population, Study Says

By Alan C. Miller
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Reflecting a 15-year trend, the number of Americans behind bars or on probation or parole climbed to a record 5.1 million last year, amid both overcrowded jails and prisons and increased community supervision of criminals, a Justice Department study reported Sunday.

A total of 2.7 percent of the nation's population was either locked up or under legal supervision at the end of 1994, the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics found. Nearly

three-quarters of those in the criminal justice system were on probation or parole in the community rather than serving time in prison or jail cells.

Since 1980, state and federal prison populations have skyrocketed by 213 percent and probation rolls have jumped by 165 percent. The average annual rate of growth has been 7.6 percent; the figure for 1994 was 3.9 percent.

Criminal justice experts said that the sharp increases reflect tougher sentencing on a range of crimes as well as a greater proportion of drug arrests involving longer prison terms.

At the same time, they said the consequent pressure to ease congestion in packed prisons and jails has led to expanded use of alternatives to incarceration or early release.

Alfred A. Blumstein, a criminologist at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., said he believes the criminal justice system "may be overextending itself" and that increased emphasis on such programs as drug treatment and prevention may be more effective in the long run than meting out harsher sentences.

Russian Passport Peddling: Business, Bribery, or Birthright?

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Citizens of the late Soviet Union, with the biting black humor that was their birthright, had a saying: "You may have the right, but you still can't do it."

In the new Russia, a land of vibrant but often predatory capitalism, folk wisdom now has it: "You may have the right, but it'll cost you."

Nowhere are the laws of the new Russian marketplace more transparent — or the cozy and unquestioned relationships between business and the bureaucracy more stark — than in the booming market for passports.

For the first time since the Soviet restrictions on travel were lifted in 1989, millions of ordinary Russians can afford their long-suppressed dreams of seeing the Eiffel Tower, sunning on a Cyprus beach or even shopping in Manhattan.

But first, they need passports.

Either they can stand in line for hours or days at the passport agency, run a gantlet of surly clerks and then wait up to three months to receive their travel document.

Or, they can pay one of the new companies that promise to get a passport for them, hassle-free.

The companies are not shy about advertising their services. Prices range from \$280 for delivery within two weeks to \$1,000 for a same-day passport.


How do the companies get the documents so quickly? They bribe officials in the passport agency, according to police Capt. Mikhail P. Pashkin, who has been trying to get the authorities to crack down on such corruption.

Pashkin, head of the police officers' trade union, says passport-peddlers pay off not only passport clerks but also officials in records departments of four different law enforcement agencies, including the former KGB, the old Soviet security police.

The agencies must certify that an applicant has no criminal charges pending against him and does not have access to vital state secrets — a process that ordinarily takes at least two weeks.

"This is an issue of secondary importance," Vitaly M. Ryabov, a department chief in the Moscow Prosecutor's Office, replied when asked whether any action had been taken against the bureaucrats involved. "Of course it's a problem, but we have so many of them. They sell pornography and university diplomas, too, but are these real problems?"


Likewise, those involved in passport-selling do not consider it corruption. A woman named Maria who works in a private passport company defended the practice, saying the government clerks are not paid to break the law or to steal from the state, but only to work faster.



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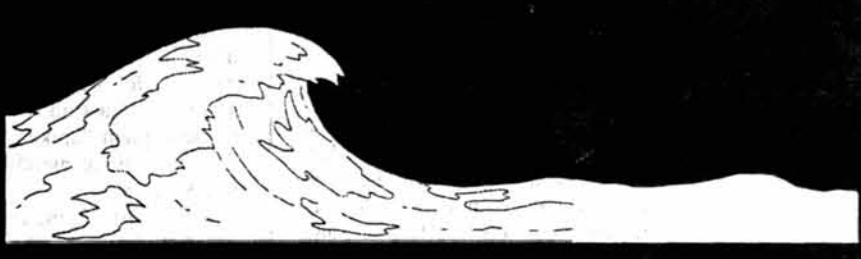
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OPINION

Institutional Wisdom Watch

by The Tech editorial board



- C. Conley:** In spite of tough crowd, she beats Will Keim hands down. And she costs less, too.
- T. Merritt:** If only the MIT administration used teamwork! Coming from Hopkinton, he should have entered Killian from the west.
- MOYA:** What is this, the 70s? Why'd nobody grab the streaker?
- Thursday Night Dinners:** Near-riot interrupts MOYA. But IW is hungry!
- C. Vest:** Cops bawl him out for badmouthing state police blocking his driveway. Can't presidents parallel park?
- J. Terrones:** Disruptive hip gyration does not a good transvestite make.
- Senior House:** Schedules kegger as "rush event," then backtracks. What happened to "Sport Death"?
- Tang Building:** Enough with the standard-issue gray buildings, already! Hire an architect who likes color.
- Counterpoint:** Building reputation as victimized publication. But why no review of dorms or sororities?
- Baseball-capped vandals:** First GAMIT, now Counterpoint. Proves they're not ideologically motivated.



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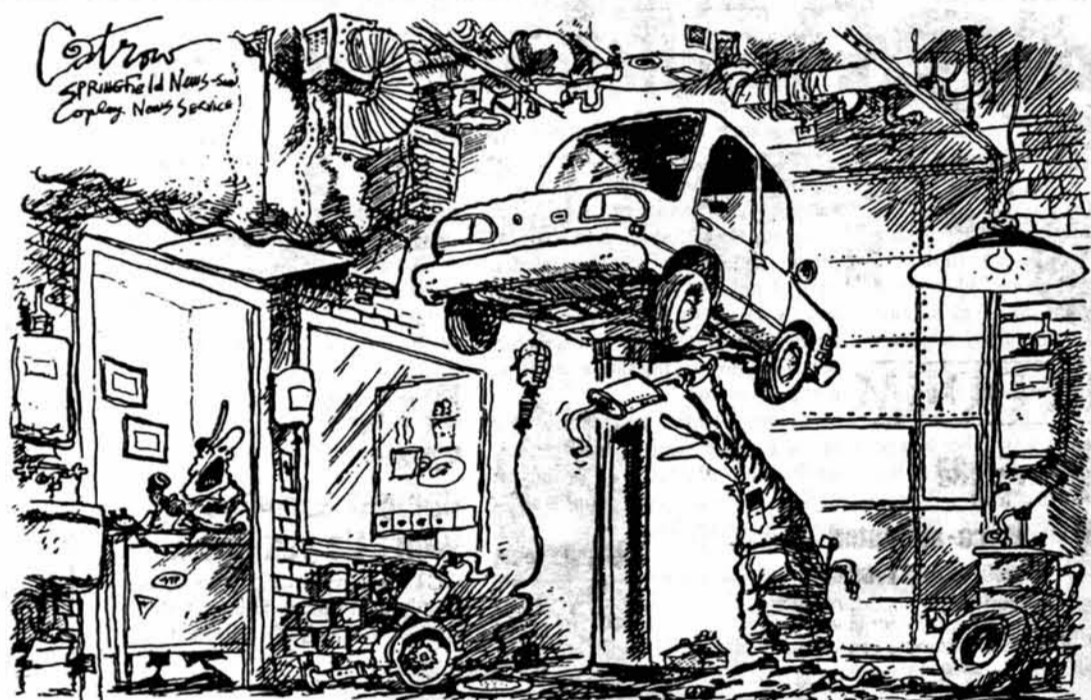
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Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

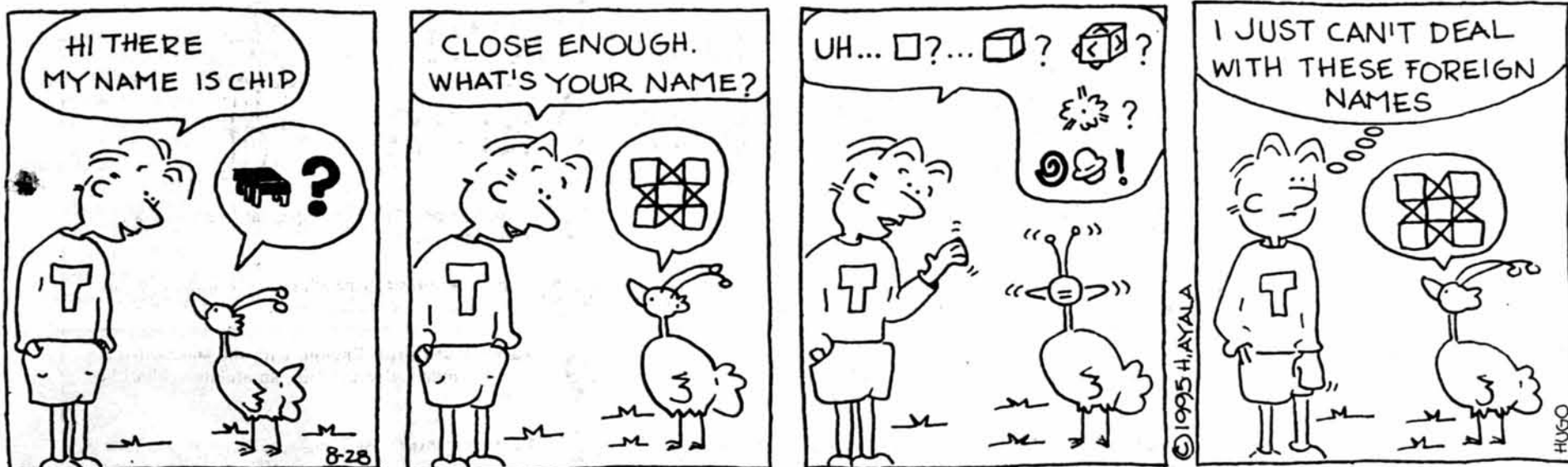
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Off Course

By H. Ayala



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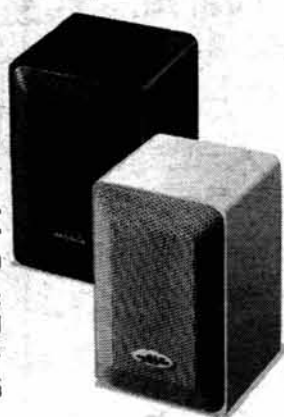
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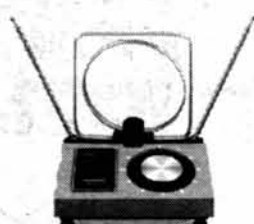
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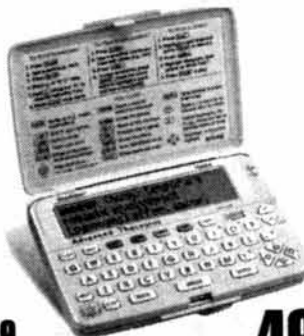
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In Student Center, Women Undertake Sorority Rush

By Ramy A. Arnaout
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

While new male students may feel thrown into the rush of choosing among the different fraternities and living groups, the process of sorority rush is collectively more coherent and follows a different set of rules.

"[Some] say it's more fair because it's more structured," said Audrey C. Wu '96, one of this year's sorority rush counselors, or Rho Chis, a group of temporarily de-affiliated sisters responsible for mediating the sororities' contact with the freshmen.

Sororities can only rush within set hours, Wu said. They also cannot talk to freshmen outside the rush rooms until they accept bids Tuesday, she said.

These restrictions give both freshmen and sororities a more level playing field, said Panhellenic Association Rush Chair Renee E. Garcia '96.

Rushing behind closed doors

Sorority rush began Friday night with the Women's Convocation, where freshmen women heard information about their living group options. "The general message was to find a place where you feel comfortable and [decide] what's best for you," Garcia said.

Freshmen can spend as long as they want at the sorority open houses held after the Women's Convocation, but at later events they are welcome by invitation only, Garcia said. For the most part, these events include more skits and theme shows, together with more informal chatting.

"If a sorority likes them, it invites them back," Wu said.

On Thursday, the sororities led introductory tours through their rush rooms, located on the third and fourth floors of the Student Center. The tours were followed by two open houses Friday night and Saturday morning, Wu said.

All rushing takes place behind closed doors, with no loiterers or non-affiliates allowed, according to Panhel rules. That restriction is for the freshmen's benefit, Garcia said. "We want them to get to know the sisters — a group of women, not the guys who hang out with them." Of course, they also do not want men used as bait, she added.

After tonight's "preference parties," the rushees will have narrowed their choices from four or five sororities to two at most, according to Panhel rules.

Some people may choose only one sorority, also called a "suicide," making the selection process an all-or-nothing proposition, Garcia said. Even without that problem, this year's rush has been "a very hectic experience."

On bidding and being nice

Sororities assign quotas based on the number of freshmen who attend the preference parties, Garcia said. The four older sororities can accept at most 22 percent of attendees; the newer and smaller Alpha Epsilon Phi can take 12 percent, she said.

Based on the sororities' bid lists and the rushees' preferences, a computer algorithm will assign the freshmen to the sororities tonight.

Neither the sororities nor the Rho Chis ever see the bid lists, Garcia said. At most, sorority alumnae and Neal H. Dorow, adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, get a look. The

process ensures that no current sorority member (however de-affiliated) ever sees which of her new sisters was first pick, she said.

As far as sorority behavior is concerned, the guiding rule is "no badmouthing," Garcia said.

Sororities also try to avoid "anything that makes rush unfair — like talking with people outside the rush room, because that would be considered rushing" according to the rush rules, Wu said.

Sororities more down to earth

Sorority rush preparation includes everything from planning

rush workshops and mailings to designing T-shirts and booklets, as put forth in the official Panhel rush rules. All in all, each sorority spends about \$2,600 of its budget on rush, Garcia said.

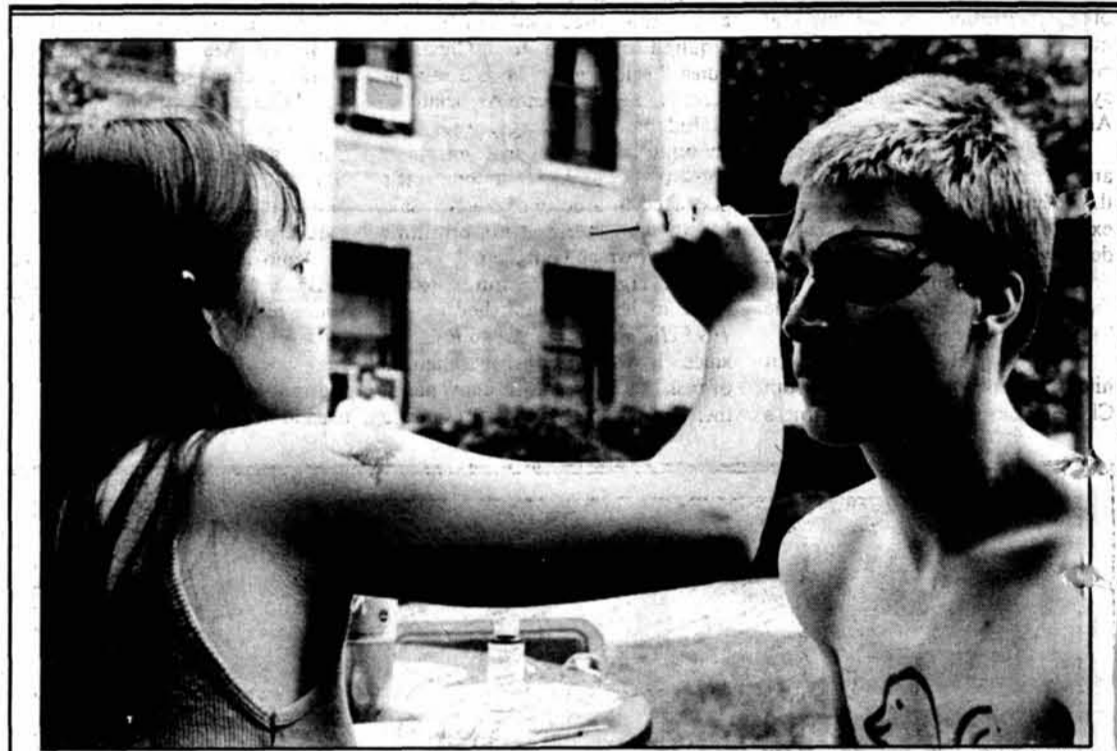
But the sum spent on rush is falling, as sororities work to comply with National Panhellenic Conference suggestions, Garcia said. NPC recommends that local chapters do away with most of the hype — the skits and frilly decorations that mark traditional sorority rush, she said.

"They claim the sisters do it just for themselves," Garcia said. "I dis-

agree; I think the sororities like to give the rushees something to look at, something to break" all the talking, she said.


But NPC is also trying to cater to its impression of 90s women as "more down to earth" than the yearly extravaganzas warrant, Garcia said. For her part, she favors a "low-frills" rush over a no-frills one pointing out that the skits are often fun for freshmen, too.

Panhel recommends sororities aim for about \$1,500 in total expenses in the future, according to Panhel rules. "We drop [the total] about \$200 a year," Garcia said.



Xuan Tang '96 prepares Mark Feldmeier '96 for yesterday's carnival at East Campus.

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Frosh Hides from Clearinghouse; Dormitories Find Few Problems

Clearinghouse, from Page 1

members of AEPi arrived and requested to see him. Interfraternity Council rush rules require that a freshman be produced by a living group within 15 minutes, so Snowberg had to be "pulled out of the middle of a shower. That really did annoy me," he said.

"In reality, our only contact with Snowberg was a single telephone call and a single visit," said AEPi Rush Chair Benjamin S. Levin '97. "Indeed, he was considering several other fraternities, and we feel that his reaction to this situation is a complaint against the Clearinghouse system in general, and not against Alpha Epsilon Phi."

Rush "is kind of a meat market," and overzealous rushing is something that fraternity rushees should expect, Snowberg said. He said he does not fault Clearinghouse for the problem he encountered but said that the option to be made invisible "should be made more public."

Snowberg did not know about his option to remove himself from Clearinghouse until an IFC fairness

judge told him that that was a choice, he said. Snowberg said that he has been offered a bid from Theta Chi but declined to say if he intends to accept the bid.

Invisible option deceptive

Although freshmen have the option of not being disturbed by living groups by being made "invisible" on Clearinghouse, few freshmen appear to know about that option, said Russell S. Light '98.

"They should be more up front about that fact that you're not required to participate in Clearinghouse," said Light, who is also treasurer of Undergraduate Association.

Independent living groups "are counting on the fact that you don't know that you have that option. It's portrayed in a deceptive way," said Light, who stressed his opinions were his own and not the UA's.

The right of freshmen to be made invisible is published in *The 1995 Hitchhiker's Guide to R/O*, but since "it works against the interests of rush" to let freshmen know about their option, the Office of Residence

and Campus Activities and the IFC have tried to keep the option as little-known as possible, Light said.

RCA "sends out mountains of stuff to freshmen but doesn't tell them that they don't have to participate" in rush, Light said.

Dorms have mixed reactions

"The only problem with Clearinghouse is that there's nothing to do on the computer when we're not checking people in," said Chia L. Shafiroff '97, a rush worker at Next House. Shafiroff said that Next "has had no real problems so far" and has been using Clearinghouse conscientiously to check in freshmen.

"The system is unusable," said Amy Banzhaf '98, a rush worker at East Campus. "It takes forever to sign people in, so we haven't been using it," she said. "We don't require people to sign in."

Pablo Herrero G, a rush worker at Baker House, said that Clearinghouse has been working well. Herrero, who said that this is his fifth year working rush, said that Clearinghouse "is much better than it used to be."

Dorm Lottery Starts

Lottery, from Page 1

not a housing option this year, despite appearing in the lottery. Anybody choosing Huntington will have that choice erased, said Residence and Campus Activities Staff Associate Phillip M. Bernard.

Assignment method changed

There are a few changes in the system from last year, Oakland said. The largest change is in how the freshmen receive their assignments.

Freshmen will be able to see what dormitory they have been assigned to by simply running the

program again after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oakland said.

Last year, freshmen received their housing assignment through electronic mail. This was ineffective because it was insecure, Oakland said. Some students hacked the system and sent e-mail to the freshmen posing as the housing lottery program, Oakland said. Freshmen were assigned to live in places such as the Campus Police headquarters or the Great Dome, he added.

This year, all assignments will be announced after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, instead of in two batches as they were last year.

Fraternities Enjoying Good Rush

Rush, from Page 1

said Jungtaik Hwang '96, a member of Theta Xi. "I don't think [the decreased male percentage] has affected us in any way," he said.

Phi Sigma Kappa is also appreciating a good rush, said Rush Chair Britt W. Gilmore '97. They also have a "high likelihood" of getting their target number of freshmen, he said.

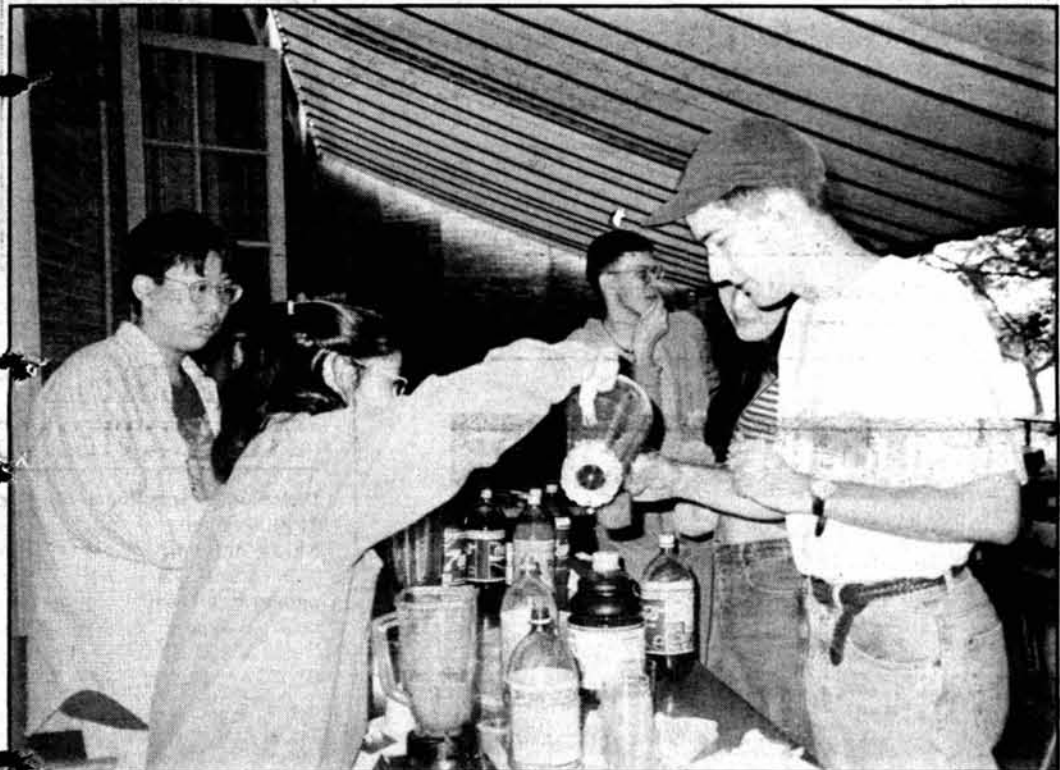
"I think [rush] is pretty intense," said Benjamin M. Adida '98, a member of Theta Delta Chi. TDC also is receiving a good number of freshmen, he said.

Adida also credits rush activities for luring freshmen. "We like to have activities that take people away from the intensity of rush, which is overwhelming," he said.

The fraternities also attribute the success of their rushes to tight organization and summer preparation, they said.

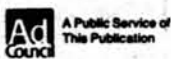
While sororities can only give quotes through the Panhellenic Association, individual fraternities can talk directly about the status of rush. "I don't think any of that information is secret" provided that the questions are reasonable, Hwang said.

Ramy A. Arnaout contributed to the reporting of this story.



Christine Matias '97 and Peter S. Cho '97 prepare a fruit shake for Jeffrey S. Kahl '98 at the Fruit Fest yesterday, sponsored by the R/O Sexual Identity Committee.

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