Living Groups’ Pledge Results Likely to Meet Expectations

By Frank Bobek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As rush nears its final days, reports from fraternities and other independent living groups indicate that this year’s rush, while not exceptional, is on par with expectations.

“We’re on target for the high 300s,” said Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for Residence and Campus Activities and director of fraternity, sorority, and independent living groups. “The numbers are comparable to previous years which have averaged around 375.” RCA forecasted that 375 freshmen would move into FSILGs this year.

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“Several fraternities exceeded their expectations and are very happy with rush,” Dorow said. Jason T. Timpe ’99, rush chair for Theta Chi, said this was an “excellent year.”

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Daily Confusion drops events
Several groups said that they suffered because of errors in The Daily Confusion this year, while Rush, Page 8

Core Blitz and Expo Introduce Academics
By May K. Tae
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Two mandatory academic events for the freshmen will take place today, starting with the Core Blitz at 10:45 a.m. in Kresge Auditorium, followed by the Academic Expo at 12:30 p.m. in Johnson Athletics Center.

The Core Blitz will feature brief presentations from professors from various departments, regarding different classes freshmen can take to fulfill their science core requirement.

“It will be talking to the freshmen about the calculus options and the various choices they have to make,” said James R. Munkres, professor of mathematics.

The other speakers include Professor of Physics Alan H. Guth ’68, Professor of Chemistry Robert J. Silbey, Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering David K. Rose, and Professor of Biology Harvey F. Lodish. Professor of Music and Theater Arts Peter Child will also give a presentation regarding the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement.

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“The purpose of the tours is to allow freshmen to get to know the city and surrounding areas and to meet other freshmen and upperclassmen. It also gives freshmen who aren’t rushing something fun and interesting to do,” said Valerie L. Pires ’99, also a member of the R/O Committee for tours and events.

Students went on a tour of Boston’s Back Bay and visited the many stores, art galleries, and cafes on Newbury and Boylston Streets. Freshmen were also able to go shopping in Fenway Park while learning about Boston’s history.

Freshmen then got a behind-the-scenes tour of Fenway Park while learning about Red Sox history.

Many students attended the infamous Boston Duck Tour in which students explored Boston by both land and water on a historic World War II-era amphibious vehicle.

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In between examining various living options during Residence and Orientation Week, freshmen have also had the opportunity, within their hectic schedules, to go out and explore parts of Boston. The R/O Committee has sponsored many tours to occupy the time of freshmen and help them explore the city which surrounds them.

“R/O Tours Introduce Frosh to Boston Sites”

“Even though it was the first day, it’s been great,” said Anna L. Rybczynski ’99.

“I think it’s been a very good first day, and we’ll look forward to the others,” said Emily F. McFadden ’99.

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NASA Loses Contact with Lewis Satellite After Four Days

By Allan M. Simmons

F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's last white president and the man who led the dismantling of apartheid, is the subject of an opposition National Party on Tuesday and stepped out of the political limelight.

In a surprise announcement, de Klerk, who served as President from Nov. 27, 1989, to June 16, 1994, said that he was stepping aside from active politics.

De Klerk's resignation comes at a time when the country is facing a critical period in its history, with the ANC-led government facing challenges.

The new documents do not provide evidence that the president was attempting to raise fund-raising calls on behalf of the ANC.

As for Gore, he only contacted Green, the White House subsequently said he made as many as 50 calls to at least 38 different donors.

The new documents do not reveal exactly how much Gore may have had to work on his autobiography.
Coveredell Joins Helms in Opposition
To W奏 as Ambassador to Mexico
By Helen Dewar
THE WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON

A key Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday joined com- mittee chairman Jesse Helms in opposition to President Clinton's announcement of the appointment of William Weld as ambassador to Mexico.

Sen. Paul Craig (R-Va.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, said he was "confronted" by the news report that Weld would be named ambassador to Mexico and would take up the post by the end of August.

"I have been a supporter of the president's foreign policy, but I can't see how someone with significant experience in private industry and in U.S.-Mexico export promotion can help solve Mexico's problems with drug trafficking," he said.

"I am concerned that the situation in Mexico has escalated to such proportions that our ambassador should be someone who speaks Spanish fluently in a category that calls for the most senior of foreign service officers, or someone who has been involved in efforts to resolve the drug situation," he said.

"I think Weld is a fine man, but I don't think he's the right person for the job," he added.

"I have serious reservations about his lack of experience in Mexican politics and economics. I also have concerns about his lack of understanding of the political and economic situation in Mexico, which is crucial to the success of our efforts to combat drug trafficking."

"I believe that an ambassador to Mexico should be someone who has a deep commitment to the cause of democracy and human rights, and who is willing to work closely with the Mexican government to bring about lasting change."

"I am concerned that Weld's appointment will send the wrong message to the Mexican people, who are looking for a strong, principled leader who will stand up for their interests."

"I believe that the senator from Georgia is more suited to the job, as he has the experience and knowledge to handle the complex challenges facing Mexico."
Column by Stacey E. Blau

Religious Groups Can Often Be Divisive

Hey, freshmen, there are atheists at MIT. And pagans and Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists and Jews and a bunch of different flavors in between. Of course, you can’t miss the slightly larger-than-average flotation meeting of that slogan directed at freshmen that’s on signs around campus.

The real signs read, “Hey, freshmen, there are Christians at MIT!” Well, well, well. Who’d have thought that?

When I first saw those signs as a freshman three years ago, I wondered what exactly they were supposed to mean to us. So there are Christians at MIT. Yeah? So what? Should be anyone more interested in that than me or anyone else who’s been on campus long enough to know that there are bed watchers at MIT too? The sign was talking to me. I guess, since I was a freshman, but on the other hand, I certainly wasn’t Christian, nor was I the least bit interested in becoming one. I might not have cared at all had it not struck me that the sign was different from the other signs put up by activities in the Infinite Corridor. The other activities with posters space tell you about themselves and maybe even try to get you to join. But the assumption the Christians sign makes is that there’s some reason you should be very interested in the fact that there are Christians at MIT.

Who would be interested in such a message? Christians, obviously, and possibly some other who want desperately to be proselytized. Surely the message is not purely informational one. (Did someone actually doubt that there were Christians at MIT?) Overtly, the sign is directed at all freshmen, but I doubt they’d all somehow be interested in Christianity. Well, we to the wise; not all freshmen are Christian. And not all of us appreciate being addressed as though we were. Religion is a serious matter at MIT, often taken a little too seriously and a little too divisively. It’s not only Christian groups that are at fault. Many other religious groups (and ethnic groups, for that matter) seem to claim much larger numbers than they really have.

The tendency for people to want to be part of a group is natural, particularly when they might feel lost and unattached during a time like the start of college. A good, healthy religious group recognizes this reality and tries to make newcomers feel welcome. Many religious groups and athletics departments do their best to help freshmen adjust. Not all religious groups, however, make a good-effort effort to do quite that. Some groups take advantage of the insecurity freshmen feel during their first few weeks at college, draw them in with big public commitments and pressuring them under the guise of promoting some stronger bond to the university. Many of these groups have been known to isolate freshmen and ruin their lives for a substantial period of time.

Of course, a lot of this is going on around MIT is the Boston Church of Christ, a Christian cult that sends out proselytizers in an at-od-out and cult doesn’t mean you’re not necessarily more isolated than I am (Did someone doubt the sign is directed at all freshmen, as though they were the only one interested in such things?) Ostensibly, the sign is directed at all freshmen, as though they were supposed to mean to me. So there are Christians at MIT? The Tech.

As much as I hate to add to the controversy surrounding the MIT Extropians, I felt the need to address exactly what these signs mean. They mail them and posted on their World Wide Web site, praising the group’s lucidity and insight. I realized after reading through the emails that the strength of the Extropians arguments lie in their cogency and eloquence. Their many many thousands of words written so well-written that what goes virtually unnoticed is that it is not well-thought-out. At best, the arguments by the Extropians are testament to their myopia and total lack of insight.

First, the Extropians argue for an emphasis on divergent thought instead of convergent thinking. The Extropians instead chose to use a sign that’s needed to recognize as much. By placering this choice in the midst of their arguments, the Extropians inherently support the convergence of thought and the framework of mathematical and scientific paradigms, contradicting their desire for diversity of thought. What’s the point of reading a common literature and listening to the same music, among other seemingly conformist suggestions? How is this supporting diversity of thought? And seems to see students as capable of understanding, and listening to the same music, among other seemingly conformist suggestions? How is this supporting diversity of thought? What’s the point of reading a common literature and listening to the same music, among other seemingly conformist suggestions? How is this supporting diversity of thought?
FLP Promoted Freshman Involvement — Not Elitism

Guest column by Pardis Saberi

There has been a lot of discussion lately about the Freshmen Leadership Program. Unfortunately, most of the discussion has been about the elitism that has not been talked about anyone involved in the program. Judgments have been passed without any information to support them. As the founder of FLP and a two-year participant, I would like to shed some light on the discussion.

FLP was, in its most primitive form, a conclusion to a paper I wrote titled "The Effects of Housing and Orientation on the Quality of MIT Student Life." I felt that MIT was a self-reliant institution that worked hard to get where they are, and we need to take the talents, experiences, and ideas of each freshman and allowing them to contribute to the group.

I believe that a group's potential can best be achieved if everyone's ideas can be used as opposed to a situation in which only one person is heard. We are not creating politicians or FLP but rather developing engineers, scientists, businessmen, etc., who can work together and individually to achieve their potential.

The highest achievement that could be claimed of the 1996 FLP program was not that six participants went on to become Class of 2000 officers. The true success was the fact that 85 freshmen became active in their community in their own way — in science, in sports, in student government, in their living groups, or as friends — and that in doing what they loved, they benefited the community.

I find it funny that of five days of activities, the one activity that got the most attention was one that could not have lasted more than 10 minutes over the duration of the camp — heir-writings. But because it seems important to some, I will give it its deserved attention.

The goal of heir-writing was twofold. First, it made people more relaxed and lowered inhibitions. If freshmen saw that their counselors and other freshmen were not too cool to look silly, they would be willing to take more risks and let their guard down. Second, heir-writing provided a necessary contrast with other more serious activities and discussions that were ignored by columns like Alchemist. FLP participants did build close bonds after spending five days together. It may seem natural to simply assume that these bonds would be stronger than those formed by other freshmen during the first few days of R/O. But it is rather premature to make judgments on the effect of FLP on the MIT community after only a few days. We did not see a FLP clique split off from the class of 2000 after FLP 1996. What we did see was these freshmen go into many different living groups and, through conversations with each other, begin to bring the MIT community closer together. That was our main aim.

If you want to know more about the FLP program and activities, you should ask participants or check out the FLP World Wide Web page. Please do not learn about it from people who have not done any research before declaring their opinions.

After reading some of the columns that have been printed, it seems that it should be ashamed to say that the freshmen who attended FLP enjoyed themselves, that they got a lot out of it, that they made a variety of friends. I am not ashamed. We gave every freshman this opportunity, and we are working harder for next year to make sure more freshmen and counselors go. We are doing the best we can. Instead of faulting the program for giving some freshmen a very good experience, we should think about ways to give such an experience to more people.
The name's Cupid. I'm what you might call a big-game hunter for hire.
By Jennifer Lane

As frenzied rush grinds to a halt, reality once again will start to sink in. There'll be classes to register for, and one burdensome and expensive task that every student must face several times a year — textbook purchasing.

While the traditional site for this semestereiy ritual is the MIT Coop, located in Kendall Square, an aspiring student could probably find some textbooks for a lower price, if they looked and waited long enough.

For instance, Computational Structures, used in Computation Structures (6.004) sells for $70 at the Coop and the MIT Press, while it is going for $58 at Quantum Books.

The Coop

The Coop is currently stocking 80 percent of the textbooks needed for next semester's classes. This is 12 percent ahead of where they were this time last year, said Bob Devine, general manager of The Coop in Kendall. The Coop is the contact for the majority of MIT professors and works closely with professors to ensure that textbooks are available.

“We have a pretty good working relationship,” Devine said. The Coop is “shooting for 10 percent” used book sales this year, and they are currently at about 12 percent, he said. Last year, The Coop had only 3 percent used book sales.

Used books are sold at 25 percent off the new book price. Calculus with Analytic Geometry, used for Calculus (18.01) and Calculus (18.02) is sold at The Coop for $86.50. University Physics Volume One, for Physics I (8.01) is selling for $58, and Volume Two for Physics II (8.02) will cost students $47.50.

The Coop has a 27 percent markup on textbooks. Students may sell their textbooks back to The Coop at up to 50 percent of their cost at the end of the semester, Devine said. The Coop will also run a shuttle between living groups and their store on Aug. 2, 3, and 4.

MIT Press

The MIT Press, located across the street from The Coop, publishes many of the textbooks students will use this semester. Students willing to look around for textbooks, especially computer science texts, may be able to find a better deal at the MIT Press. The store sells texts at the MIT Press recommended price.

APΟ Book Exchange

Alpha Phi Omega, a coed service fraternity, will once again sponsor a book exchange. There, students may find books at lower prices.

The book exchange will be held Aug. 2 through Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Quantum Books

Quantum Books, located at the corner of Ames and Broadway, sells very few textbooks. “It’s not a large part of our business,” said Sheila Cecchi, manager of corporate accounts and customer service for Quantum Books. However, they do stock several electrical engineering and computer science textbooks.

Because Quantum orders books in small quantities, they may be able to offer the book at a lower price than The Coop, which must stock a large quantity, Cecchi said.

Quantum Books, hidden behind the MIT Coop in Kendall Square, may provide some textbooks at a lower price.
HASS-D, PE Lotteries Set to Begin on Athena Today

By Brett Atchels
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Students may now enter separate lotteries to select their physical education and Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Distribution classes.

The format for the lottery programs is identical to last year's, said Andy Oakland, a programmer for Information Systems.

"The HASS-D and PE lotteries are running exactly the same," Oakland said. The HASS-D lottery will not send e-mail with the results, Oakland said. That feature was removed last year after it experienced problems. Oakland said that next semester, the lottery should be available through the World Wide Web.

"We're hoping that we'll have it up and running for the spring term," he said.

The whole program will be integrated into the preregistration process on the web Student Information System. Students will enter the lottery on the Web, and the program will automatically preroll their first choice, Oakland said.

Although there is a link to the lottery in the current WebSIS form, it does not actually run the lottery. "Currently, it just shows a page with instructions on how to run it," Oakland said. The actual HASS-D lotteries have not changed significantly since last year, said Bette K. Davis, coordinator of the HASS office.

Typically, the number of students that get their first choice is 85 to 91 percent of the total who enter the lottery, Davis said. "The vast majority of in HASS-Ds are not overenrolled."

The same courses are expected to be oversubscribed, she said. These include Writing and Reading (1.01725), Harmony and Counterpoint I (1.013101), and Introduction to Psychology (3.01000), Davis said.

Like last year, only one section of 1.01725 will be offered. Before that, there were three oversubscribed sections, Davis said. This year, it will be very oversubscribed.

Reaction to the new lecturer for the HASS-D lottery, Davis said. The same day will be 14 teaching assistants, each with two sections of 13 students, making 364 students total, Davis said. Even so, it will almost never be oversubscribed, she said.

The HASS-D lottery may be activated by typing "add hass-d" and then "enroll 6" from an Athena terminal. The same command will display students' assignments after the lottery is complete.

The deadline for entries is noon on Tuesday, which is Registration Day. The results will definitely be available by midnight and possibly earlier.

PE lottery sees few changes

The PE lottery has not changed this year in any significant way, said Candice R. Roray, director of physical education.

The only change in course offerings is that there will be no pet classes this quarter, although they will resume next quarter, she said. Roray said that some classes are typically very popular, like sailing, aerobics, tennis, and weight training.

Conversely, some activities, like swimming and table tennis, usually have many open slots.

Students may run the PE lottery by typing "add petleis" and then "suffix h" from an Athena terminal.

The results of the lottery will be available before midnight next Wednesday, the day the lottery closes.

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Messaging System Proves an Ineffective Fraternity Rush Tool

Rush, from Page 1

Others benefited from the errors. Fenway House said that this rush has gone very well. Christopher D. Beland '99, rush chair for Fenway, said "party rush went very well for us." He attributed part of his success to the fact that other ILCs that compete with Pika did not get their events advertised in The Daily Confusion.

Dorow said that the problems with The Daily Confusion "did affect several houses that depend more on The Daily Confusion." Members of Student House, some of whose activities were also dropped, and Fenway House collab- orated to print and distribute an addendum, said Erin R. Schuster '98, rush chair for Student House.

Fraternity not effective

The majority of rush chairs contacted said that the new Freshman Messaging System was not effective as a rush tool.

"I don't think a lot of freshmen know about the system," said Jeffrey C. Munro '99, assistant rush chair for Phi Sigmas Kappa. Munro, said, "most freshmen [were] uninformed about the system."

According to last year's rush chair for Alpha Delta Phi, said that the system was "helpful in some cases." Timpe concurred, saying "if you could contact freshmen [the system] was good."

Christopher L. Williams '98, rush chair for Theta Xi, said that the "rain during the Friday didn't help at all. Johnson did not appear to have many lasting negative effects."

Dennis E. Okon '99, rush chair for Phi Lambda Chi, said that the "rain didn't help at all. Johnson didn't help at all. Kick-Off caused a slow early rush because they led to "not such a strong rush."

"It's not yet over, Donor said, "I think there are some pretty nice living groups that aren't getting the attention from freshmen that they deserve." He said that some of these houses will continue running through the week.

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still have the opportunity to join
bonds for them, just like they have for me. That's
relate to that, too.
\[\text{MIT Students Get In Free to Several Boston Attractions}]
\[\text{Expo, from Page 1}\]
\[\text{Academic Expo Gives Freshmen Information On Departments}\]
\[\text{Just because something is old doesn't mean it isn't valuable.}\]
\[\text{I can relate to that. Maybe that's why I'm never in a rush with these old guys. Sanding out a dent here and there,}\]
\[\text{restoring the gears...soon I'll have all the time in the world for them, just like they have for me. That's the beauty of}\]
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\[\text{come by the Academic Expo later. You can't answer questions in a 10-}\]
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\[\text{MIT Music Department Auditions}\]
\[\text{MIT Brass Ensemble / Brass Quintets}\]
\[\text{MIT Chamber Music Society}\]
\[\text{MIT Concert Band}\]
\[\text{MIT Concert Choir}\]
\[\text{MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble}\]
\[\text{MIT Symphony Orchestra}\]
\[\text{MIT CAN African Music Ensemble}\]
The Daily Confusion printed here is missing many events due to an R/O Committee error. Additional events are listed in an addendum, but this list is neither complete nor accurate.

5:53 p.m. Boy Too (spatial)! Shoe-Bushing Fenway EarthQuakers Boxing Hall (TAM) Overseas coloring books! Oh no - where is the jumping flag?

10:47 p.m. Dramatic Readings from the Space Casting, "that silly little bet?" Ah, humanity!

Just a fraction of our time watching movies could help bring many happy endings.

It's as easy as joining The Tech's Production Staff! Just call or stop by and ask for Jason.

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