Summer job market tight

By Lee Giguere

That the summer job market is tougher this year "is a fair statement," according to Daniel Langdale, head of the new Student Employment Office.

Langdale also said, however, that he really had no firm reason to believe that jobs are short, but based his statement on what he'd heard from sources he respected, including students who'd already been looking for jobs themselves.

The fact that many students don't yet know what they would like to be doing for the summer also complicates estimating the situation, as does a lack of comparative data from past years.

Langdale noted that job listings with the office are up 10% from past years. The listings, however, are the result of requests sent out to employers in November, and most of the information was in before February first.

At the Institute, the situation "should be the same as last summer," but both Langdale and another member of the office, Mrs. Jan Clarke, pointed out that many people just don't know what's going to be available. Langdale added that many jobs are filled without his knowledge since departments prefer to fill jobs by approaching their own students first. He emphasized that there are many independent employers at MIT and the Employment Office does not have general control over who gets a job, although it does help to "coordinate wages.

Mrs. Clarke commented that full-time jobs for graduates are also harder to get this year. Langdale said that the shortage may simply mean that students "should be more aggressive" in seeking jobs.

Over the summer, the office will prepare a questionnaire which Langdale hopes to have sent to students with registration material. The questionnaire, he continued, would "allow us to generate more potential for the summer." While giving the office some information about how successful students were in getting jobs, it would also provide listings of businesses which might again employ MIT students during the summer. Langdale said that he is also considering attempting to contact alumni to find additional openings.

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