Coed experiment a success

Coed living experiments at MIT have been successful, judge-
ing from the reports of students trying out the idea within their living groups.

East Campus and two frater-
nities, Sigma Nu and the Num-
ter Six Club, accepted female residents last fall. All three reported successful beginnings to the Corporation Visiting Committee on Student Affairs.

Student House, another MIT living group, first tested the ice on coed living by accepting women residents in the fall of 1969.

"Coed living," said East Cam-
pus resident Eve DiCapua, "was probably the biggest change we've had in dormitories in a long time. It's explained that the program got off to a slow start last fall, but by November the contact between men and women had become much more natural.

None of the women, he con-
tinued, date men from their en-
trites, leading Committee mem-
ber Joseph Wheelwright to com-
tent that an "incest taboo" might have developed. The dorm solved the problem of integrat-
ing a small (14) number of girls into the large dorm by concen-
trating the girls in the house's sections. East Campus opted for room-by-room arrangements, rather than the floor-by-floor living MIT may develop in another dorm next year.

Questioned about whether there was an adequate supply of coed living arrangements to meet the demand, DiCapua noted that the "facilities are more than adequate." There have been no problems as yet with providing space for all the women who want to try coed living, and next year the dorm will increase its number of coeds to 21.

It may still be too early to tell how coed living will work within the fraternities. Five wo-
men have taken up residence in Sigma Nu, and only three now live in Number Six, so the exper-
iment may not be meaningful.

Both houses have managed to overcome opposition from their nationals, removing early fears that affiliation might be ham-
pered.

Rushing entering freshmen women and their parents have been a problem. Neither house had any particular financial problem in making the change, since the needed physical plant renovations are slight.

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