Female interest in MIT down

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and grades was used, along with scores on the tests.
Students identified by the search procedure were sent a preliminary application form and a copy of "MIT Today" by the Admissions Office in the summer before their senior year. In an effort to increase the number of women applicants, standards for women were somewhat lower than those for men, resulting in 10,000 women receiving preliminary applications compared to 40,000 men.

Many young high school
students we're "falsely encour-
gaged" by MITs interest in them, Cohen said, and applied to the Institute. A sharp drop in the number of final applications to preliminary application among women was one result of this policy. Cohen said.

Standards for men and women were equalized this year in the Student Search procedure, resulting in a decline in the number of applications from
women, Cohen said. Only 400 women received "MIT Today" this year, while 11,000 men was the best.

Cohen explained that men tend to score better on standardized admis-
sions tests and usually express more interest in mathematics and science than women do, resulting in higher figures for men when equal standards are used.

"It's probably safe to assume that the 4000 women we contact-
ted this year are generally more qualified, if not as numerous, as
last year's women," Cohen told The Tech. "This probably means
we will get more completed applic-
pations, and a higher percent-
tage of those women who apply
will be accepted."

Cohen predicted that the Class of 1979 would probably be about 20 per cent female, the same as this year's freshman class. "They will be at least as able as this class," she added.

A series of studies conducted by the Admissions Office two years ago showed that women were much less likely to be interested in careers in science and technology than men, Cohen said. Figures compiled in these studies indicated that MITs admissions could probably not result in more than 30 per cent women in freshman classes in the next few years.

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