R/O Week observations: a day by day chronicle

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Labor Day, but no one seems to notice. The hideous freshmen make their dorm selections today, and close to 90 per cent will get what they want. Fraternities receive nearly 75 per cent of their pledges by late evening, and most frats report a very smooth rush, expressing pleasure with the quality of the class. Some complain that freshmen are more interested in dorms this year, but almost none seem to be in any difficulty. The new living groups are set by mid-afternoon, alleviating their own nervousness and the skepticism always associated with that "first rush."

One new twist in the dorm selection process is that freshmen who will accept overcrowded rooms get first choice, a way to keep everyone happy but also to jam as many people in the dorms as possible. The R/O Center is crowded again, and confusion, absent yesterday, is rampant again. Nobody seems to know exactly how room assignments work, and many freshmen are worried about winding up in a fifth or sixth choice dorm, or even worse, in "limbo" (without an assignment), while pledges and other changes are negotiated. Clearinghouse comes out with one interesting tidbit — the average freshman has visited 3.6 fraternities a total of 8.46 times.

Outside the Center, things are quiet, partially because of the holiday and partially because of the total exhaustion of the freshmen, R/O workers, fraternity and dormitory rushers, and everyone else involved with the process. Tonight all freshmen will receive a room assignment, with the exception of the folks in "limbo," and the Institute will settle down to the business of arranging the education of the newcomers, a process where the frantic, almost manic pace will not become apparent until the term is well under way.

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