Suites lounge doubles; or stuffing in the '80 class

By Glen Brownstein

Another I/O Week is over, and MIT has set a record of sorts, but it's not one of which the Institute administration should be proud. Thanks to a slow fraternity rush and a class size too large for the dormitory system to handle, MIT has managed to arrange overcrowded-living conditions for 80 freshmen — nearly 15 per cent of the incoming class. What could have been even more unfortunate conditions is likely that next year's freshman class will end up in the neighborhood of 1500 or more — and this year's graduating class...

Where can MIT put all these extra people, assuming that there will be fewer-than-average spots opening next fall? Unusual overcrowding measures are already being taken this year, as 27 Burton doubles will become triples, all ten Baker end-floor triples will become quads (a conventional arrangement for several years), and certain MacGregor suite lounges will be transformed into doubles, a serious corruption of the dormitory's design...

MIT's year-old New House was met with less than great excitement from Class of 1980 members, as it received fewer first choices on a per-person basis than any other dormitory — including renovated Lou. Obviously students do not appreciate a ten or fifteen-minute walk to classes every day, so further building along Memorial Drive by the Institute will probably not be welcomed.

The problem, of course, does not rest simply with providing less-than-desirable accommodations for students, but with the likelihood that conditions for 108 freshmen — nearly 10 per cent of the incoming class — is not one of which the Institute administration should be proud. Another R/O Week is over, and MIT has set a record of sorts, but what are the implications of overcrowding for the academic environment? For example, during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and once during the summer, students may be provided with the following for service...