Worst crowding yet: class of '81 moves in

By Mark James

A freshman class comprising almost one hundred more students than MIT targeted is arriving on campus.

About 1600 freshmen have decided to enter in the class of 1982. It will be MIT's second largest class ever, and it's members will face the worst overcrowding in room history. Even though 96 freshmen are being housed in Random Hall, the decision to use Random Hall was made when the class size began to exceed predictions - around 120 freshmen beyond the normal capacity of the remainder of the dormitory system will be housed, according to the estimates of Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth Browning.

Browning's estimates, roughly 134 students will be living in crowded rooms. Most of them will be freshmen, but more upperclassmen than before will be affacted - the exact number is uncertain, Browning said.

Browning told The Tech that several special problems will be caused by this year's over-crowding.

* There will be "less flexibility for moving people" who are dissatisfied with their assignments.

* Upperclassmen will be crowded, some of whom were crowded during their freshman year.

* "More people may be turning up with problems," due to a general lack of privacy and space.

* The effects of overcrowding will linger into next spring, and may cause problems in housing the class of '82.

Browning noted that his predictions assume a good fraternity rush - a slow rush last year intensified crowding problems. The need to use Random Hall and some of the other crowding results from the error in estimating the class size. This year the yield - the percentage of students who accepted MIT's offer of admission - was 56 percent, up from 47 percent the year before.

The MIT administration set the class size at 1,000, but the Admissions Office underestimated the yield, resulting in the larger class.

The Director of Admissions Peter Richardson '48 said that the increased yield was due to MIT's mailing letters of acceptance earlier than the year before, in previous years, the earlier date was Aug 1.

* "People turn to page 7.

In the News

Weather — Today: partly sunny, with a chance of late afternoon or evening thunderstorms; hazy and humid with highs in the mid- to upper 80's. Tonight: cloudy, with lows in the 70's.

Tomorrow: variable cloudiness and scattered showers and thunderstorms; hazy and humid with high temperatures in the mid- to upper 80's.

INSIDE

R/O week has always been a time when upperclassmen offer freshmen advice; a heavy dose is presented on today's editorial page.

MIT dormitories have few rules in 1977; in 1953, this was far from the case.

OUTSIDE

From the outside the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is regarded as an inscrutable no man's land. Some consider it an arsenal of geniuses. MIT is intimidating. It is exotic. One first year student in the area is even said "to use the force of the school's reputation to subdue recalcitrant students: she is insidious. If you don't behave, I'm going to send you to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."...