Frats get good Rush; dorm slots out today

By John Hack and Mark James

This year's fraternity rush is running well ahead of last year's rush and is on a par with the best rushes in the past eight years. As of 9:30p.m. yesterday, 273 freshmen had pledged fraternities.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth Browning '66 has based his figures for dormitory overcrowding on a successful rush. Last year's poor rush contributed to the crowding that year, according to Browning.

The first dormitory assignments were made late last night and will be distributed to freshmen at 11a.m. today.

Asked about reasons for the good rush, Silvon Roiye '74, Interfraternity Conference (IFC) R.O. Chairman, said that summer rushing and the quality of the class of '81 were mainly responsible. Roiye added that "this class is more noticeable, more outgoing and more willing to check out all living groups" than last year's class.

Several fraternity R.O. chairmen mentioned the high quality of the freshman class. One chairman noted that this year's a "super class." Dormitory R.O. chairmen also expressed positive feelings toward the class of 1981. Some chairmen have noted that the freshmen are more interested in the dormitories, have been asking more questions, and have been more enthusiastic than in previous years.

Jerry Cole '74, IFC Judicial Committee Chairman, said that there have been no major violations of IFC rush rules this week, and no major violations since Sunday.

Statistics released from the Clearinghouse computer show that only 109 freshmen have not visited a fraternity, compared with 179 last year. In addition, 441 freshmen and transfers visited at least two houses each.

There were 231 pledged freshmen by 4p.m. yesterday, the largest number since 1971.

Freshmen visited fewer fraternities fewer times this year than last year. The average freshman made 4.1 visits to 2.3 fraternities. This year, the average freshman visited 5.1 fraternities.

Times freshmen were encouraged by IFC officials to spend more time at each house and get to know the people there better. The average freshman has been visited by 124 freshmen for a total of 192 visits so far during rush week.

By Gordon Haff

Editor's note: After spending a weekend at the freshman partiers, Gordon Haff along with many of the incoming freshmen, began to look at the issue of dorm life.

I walked into the R.O. center around 11a.m. after a late party the previous night. A large number of freshmen were already there.

They were all holding little green slips of paper — dorm preference cards.

Talking with some of the people who had been hanging around all weekend, I got the impression that a good number of them had not visited many fraternities and had just been waiting for the dorm preference cards to be given out. Several had elaborate schemes for "beating the computer".

Most of the earlier arrivals had managed to figure out the elaborate priority system for the dorms necessitated by overcrowding. It occurred to me that a person who had been at the R.O. desk all weekend might be rather confused when confronted with this priority system. Even more than last year, it seemed that those who had been hanging around the dormitories most of the weekend had a considerable advantage at getting into certain Institute Houses.

Some freshmen were being unreasonable. One was moaning that there was no way he would live in a triple; he would simply refuse to do it.

Late in the day, more freshmen began to arrive at the R.O. center from the fraternities system. Some had paid short visits to several dormitories, but they didn't seem to have much of an idea of the intricacies of dorm assignments, confirming my earlier opinion.

Over at the dormitories, freshmen were taking second chances, trying to add definition to their somewhat unclear ideas regarding the differences between the various dorms. Others were just doing the rounds for the first time, possibly realizing that they might not be held by a fraternity or even just deciding that fraternity life might not be right for them.

Naturally they were all curious about facets of their living situation, for example, the overwhelming vacuum.

A few were beginning to form strategies for their second and third choices. The overall theme seemed to be "get something satisfactory."

Except for a few nervous freshmen, the atmosphere around the dorm was very carefree. When someone called up the desk and said "I'm a freshman," he was answered "That's not your fault." Upperclassmen were lounging around the R.O. desk in great numbers chatting with each other and the newcomers who entered in ever increasing numbers as the day went on.

All male freshmen who turned in dormitory preference cards were assigned to their first choice dormitories except when necessary, for all 225 freshmen who chose Burton, MacGregor or Baker and two who chose French House. Most of the 225 will be assigned this morning. Of the five women who did not receive their first choice, three were assigned to McCormick, which is now full.