Class of '82 faces housing squeeze

By Jordana Hollander

The MIT campus is preparing to receive about 1,070 freshmen today and tomorrow, arriving in varying states of confusion. Initially, they go through the R/O Center and receive temporary housing and a large amount of information from the MIT. Freshman then begin the process of deciding where they want to live. This weekend will be devoted to showing the dormitories and freshmen to the freshmen so that they have a better understanding of the choices open to them. By the beginning of next week, housing assignments will be cut and sent out.

The class of '82 will face one of the worst overcrowding situations in recent years, however, according to Dean Robert Sherwood of the Office for Student Affairs. The Dean's Office is planning on overcrowding 130 to 140 students, added Sherwood.

These overcrowded rooms will be distributed among the dormitories in about the same pattern as last year, said Sherwood. Burton House will probably be one of the most overcrowded living groups because the rooms are easily crowded and the room assignment process already takes these overcrowded rooms into consideration.

These figures depend on the freshmen having a successful rush this year. Sherwood pointed out. Dave Maurer G, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Rush Chairman said that the IFC was hoping for about 400 freshmen pledges, making it the largest fraternity class ever.

Rush will begin on Friday evening after the Freshman Picnic and bids to freshmen will be extended starting Sunday. This leaves only two days for the fraternities to attain their goal and for the freshmen to consider the various fraternities.

If the rush does not work as hoped, however, the dormitory crowding will be even worse, said Sherwood.

In addition to the large number of freshmen entering the housing system, many students are staying in Institute Housing instead of moving off campus and are adding to the overcrowding. According to Sherwood, more upperclassmen are remaining on campus either because they are more satisfied with their housing or because they have no alternative.

Off campus housing in the Boston and Cambridge areas in the past two weeks has been extremely tight, said Sherwood, partly because of the large number of apartments in Cambridge being turned into condominiums. The Dean's Office is looking into ways of helping students find off campus housing, he added.

Unlike last year, there are no new dormitories opening and Zeta Psi, the newly chartered fraternity, will not be established until the fall of 1979. Other measures such as limiting the size of the incoming class will not go into effect until next year, so that no immediate relief for the housing crunch is in sight.

Institute welcomes foreign freshmen

By Michael Travis

Although the burst of R/O/OT is only just beginning, one group of students has already been here for several days taking part in their own orientation program — the foreign freshmen. The International Students Orientation is being run with the aid of the Foreign Student Office, several student volunteers, most of them foreign students themselves, and the International Students' Association.

The Foreign Freshmen R/O/OT Coordinator, Brian Loewen- harg '81, from the Netherlands, commented that so far the orientation program for the forty incoming freshmen was running smoothly with no real problems or incidents of "culture shock."

He did say that, "This program is emphasizing the fact that there is a city near the campus.” The idea is to show new students that they shouldn't let themselves get tied down on campus, according to Loewenharg.

The overwhelming reason given by foreign students for choosing MIT was its reputation. Ali Chhunavi '82 of Pakistan said "It's a nice place. Well-known.” Rebecca Henderson of London, England stated that MIT was the "best engineering school in the world.” Jeanine Maloix '82 from Trinidad and Tobago, also "heard it's the best engineering school in the world.” Maurice Amzallag '82 of France came here "because it has a very good reputation in France.”

The amount of difficulty foreign freshmen encounter getting into MIT depends on their native country. Usually this isn't the standard financial or academic problems, but the inconvenience of getting out of their own country. Kenneth W. Evans-Lettieod '82, from Trinidad and Tobago, also "heard it's the best engineering school in the world.” Maurice Amzallag '82 of France came here "because it has a very good reputation in France.”

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