Sky clear for freshman picnic

By Michael Ries and Michael Tawin

Despite some possible rush violations the freshness Picnic was smoothly under blue skies yesterday. The food distribution was handled well, including the accommodations for Kosher and vegetarian meals. The speeches against overwork, and virtue took about ten minutes.

An upperclassman commented that the picnic was better organized than in previous years. Another said, "This is my third Freshman Picnic and I have said that they get better every year.

Several students were present acting as Interfraternity Conference (I.C.) rush marshals. One commented, "Things are going smoothly, and we expect a good rush." However, advertising dots for Yale 'Club and Florida 'Flannel" were bearing the names of two living groups were distributed in the mud and caused some friction. Also, an airplane flying a notice inviting freshmen to a fraternity activity flew over Killian Court several times. As President Jerome Wiesner said, "That's probably illegal.

Wiesner was one of several speakers at the picnic. They were each introduced by Master of Ceremonies Paul Rethman '80. The first was Director of Admissions Peter Reddon '80. A loud applause greeted his statement that, "I'm particularly pleased that the number of young women in the crowd this year."

President Wiesner invited all freshmen to come and meet him next weekend. He advised students against working too hard and stated that "MIT is a place for men and men to learn how to hunt.

In a short speech Barry Newman '79, Undergraduate As- sociation President and R.O.C. chairman, commented "What makes this place work is not the labs, not the buildings, but the people."

Other speeches were by Acting Dean for Student Affairs Robert Halman '44, Dormitory Council Chairman Don Poten '79 and H.C. Chairman Joseph Chapman '79. Potter, dressed in Lenin and a top hat, introduced freshmen to "get involved, enjoy yourself, and especially drink a lot of beer."

Chapman assured freshmen that the move to Agents 'Columbia and 'Keck "Faction, Faction, Faction" and had little resemblance to MIT fraternity. He also gave several hints to the freshmen on how to choose a fraternity. Then the picnic was over and Rush Week began.

The food was plentiful and was served quickly at the Freshman Picnic Barbecued chicken and watermelon were the items on the menu. (Photo by Steven Solnick)

President Jerome Wiesner addresses the Class of 1982 at the Freshman Picnic, held in Killian Court yesterday afternoon (Photo by Steven Solnick)

By Gordon Hoff

By Friday morning, the gears of R/0 Week set in motion Wednesday night were moving at full speed. Under cloudy, threatening skies, the last wave of freshmen began to arrive at the R/0 Center. Despite the threatening weather, the R/O Committee had decided to keep the picnic in the Great Court. Barry Newman '79 was reputed to have said, "If we have to eat in the mud, we'll have the picnic outside.

It was the dorms, however, that were being brunt of the incoming students. Tours which had been up to date the day before were going at full blast. Freshmen were starting to worry about their choice of living groups. Most didn't seem to believe what the upperclassmen were telling them: namely that the choice of a living group is not the most important decision in the world.

Others were beginning to worry about the fraternity rush. One person I spoke with was already concerned about what would happen if he wasn't bid - he had heard about several people that had bid this happen to them. Several first-year women were trying to determine the differences between McCormick and the coed housing. As might be expected, they all had different reasons for joining; one or the other. Some felt that McCormick would be too quiet and like the idea of activities and athletics in a coed dormitory while others were unsure about living in such a situation.

Midafternoon on Friday, the hosts of freshmen and an equal number of advisors, associate advisors, R/O Committee chairmen, and any other upperclassmen able to wangle a ticket, drifted over to the Great Court.

As the afternoon progressed, more freshmen began to add to those already there in pre-picnic discussion groups. Shortly thereafter an MIT beaver bounced onto the scene. Afterward he or she shook hands with Jerry Wiener, hugged a few people, then trotted off.

The freshmen gathered around the Great Court seemed to be happy with their experience so far. Most had spent the last day and a half visiting dorms. A few were trying to make themselves believe they were actually at MIT.

One freshman from Nebraska said he "wasn't quite used to the big city." Another mentioned that it would be hard to get used to the upcoming weather since he was from Mississippi.

Meanwhile, frat members were beginning to compile the ranks of the freshmen. While the speakers delivered their speeches, the frats were lining up along Memorial Drive. When the words "The fraternity rush has begun" were said, associate advisors began rushing while other brothers sprang across the lawn into "Faction, Faction, Faction" and had little resemblance to MIT fraternity. He also gave several hints to the freshmen on how to choose a fraternity. Then the picnic was over and Rush Week began.