The MIT dormitory system faces a severe overcrowding problem this year, due primarily to the fact that only eight more freshmen have been admitted than the desired 1,050.

Several factors caused the overcrowding. The most important reason is that the freshmen came short of their projected target by about 20 students. They were aiming for at least 400, or around 425 at best, according to Interfraternity Conference Rush-Chairman David Maurer O'G.

Another problem is that there were fewer upperclassmen who left the dormitory system than expected, resulting in a shortage of open dormitory rooms. Sherwood cited the critical lack of off-campus living as a major reason for this.

The overcrowding exceeded the earlier estimates of the IFC freshmen, causing what Sherwood called an "intolerable situation." He said that he would begin "working on the problem from today on," in cooperation with the academic council, with "a real commitment to get crowding reduced." He could not single out a most promising idea for a solution to the problem yet.

Sherwood reported that even rooms which are considered barely crowdfull, or even overcrowded, had to have extra students in them this term. He said that the crowding problem is usually resolved after the first term, but he doesn't know how it will work out this year.

Since overcrowding takes place in triples (which become quads), the impact of the problem is three times the number of extra students, or about 450 underenrollment. A sizable number of students, however, are doubled in East Campus and Senior House rooms, since those have the most crowdfull rooms on a relative scale. Sherwood said.

Final statistics for the freshmen could not be readily obtained since the Clearing House computer was still down yesterday. Maurer, however, commented that the "overall picture was very good." He mentioned the fact that nearly all the freshmen visited at least one frat during rush week.

To make up for the deficiency in number of fraternity pledges, Maurer said, some of the frats will continue seeking students this fall. A new national fraternity, Zeta Phi, is making plans for opening in the next year or two, and some MIT students will be sought for that when it gets a house. Maurer said that they might be ready by next fall, but that is only an optimistic estimate.