Final frost count unsure

By Gordon R. Haff

"Anywhere between 1000 and 1100 freshmen could end up arriving in the fall" according to Director of Admissions Robert Richardson. So far, 1084 freshmen have indicated their intent to attend MIT in the fall — 34 more than the target of 1050 set by the Academic Council. Bosny Kellier, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, predicted that the actual number will drop slightly by the end of the summer, bringing it closer to the 1050 goal.

Richardson added that giving a definite number for the final class size would be pure guesswork. He says he doesn't know until two weeks after they get here (except how many freshmen there are).

The effect of the incoming class size on crowding in the dormitories remains to be seen. Robert Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs in Charge of Housing, was out of town and could not comment on the matter. The effect of the frosh count on housing is — particularly that of Zeta Psi, which is new this year — will also have a major influence on the housing situation.

Out of 241 juniors and 217 women planning to attend the Institute, a figure which is down about 15 from last year's record, however, that he does not think this is a trend. The number of minority students, on the other hand, is up a little over last year to 109, 2 of whom are black.

Overall, Richardson said there were not any major changes in admissions this year. He said "the striking thing is the stability. There are differences in classes. Things which were issues with classes four years ago are not so much now, but this is more a sign of the times than anything else.

There were a few more applications this year than in previous years bringing the acceptance ratio to about 35 percent. Richardson noted that this was a much higher ratio than at a school such as Harvard because there is "a large degree of self-selection (among MIT applicants)."

According to both Richardson and information derived from forms submitted to the Office of Freshman Advising by the freshmen over the summer, interest in engineering remains high among the incoming class. Richardson said that this was part of the up-and-down cycle which engineering has gone through for years.

Church delegates argue scientific ethics

By Steven Schick and Eric Silver

"We may be more in the business of finding problem than solving problem." That quote, from MIT Professor of Nuclear Engineering David Rose, was apropos of the frustration, of many participat- in the World Conference on Faith, Science and the Future.

The Conferences, which convened in Kresge Auditorium on July 12, 1979, is sponsored by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and is scheduled to conclude this evening. MIT is hosting the event, devoting most of the work to the conference, as "We'll also as William Dining Hall to accommodate delegates, but it is not formally a coprsonor.

Over the last three days, 450 delegates, of whom half are scientists while the remainder are theologians, social scientists and other observers. Nearly as many accredited visitors, guests, and observers attended the meeting, called to examine scientific ethics, the just distribution of technological power and the relations between science and faith, which has been referred to as the "most diverse ecumenical gathering in history."

The conference has also attracted a diverse crowd of demonstrators; attracting to everything from nuclear disarmament and the growth of trans- national corporations to WCC activities in Rhodesia.

Plenary sessions have heard addresses on a variety of issues related to the general theme, including papers from three MIT computer scien- tists on the impact of computer technology on society. Meanwhile observers have been preparing reports in specific areas (such as energy, Genetic Engineering, or Disarmament), for adoption by the full conference, which will incorporate them into its final statement.

Many delegates, however, have complained that the conference has been "drowning in its own rhetoric" or that the "theme is too broad to yield concrete proposals for action."

One member of the conference's Steering Committee described its work: "We've been discussing the differences between the different committees, and we expect this."

Richardson, stated that the committee has been "drowning in its own rhetoric" or that the "theme is too broad to yield concrete proposals for action."

Richardson continued that this was part of the up-and-down cycle which engineering has gone through for years.

Dorm plans reviled by anonymous grant

By Steven Schick

A new west campus dormitory should be built and ready for occupi- on by September of 1981, after receipt of a last-minute gift during Alumni week.

The project, which was still under postponement as late as May due to lack of funds, was saved by a grant of $2 million secured from an alumnum who wished to remain anonymous. The gift was reportedly received during Commencement rehearsal on June 1.

The new dorm will be constructed according to the guidelines laid out in the January 1979 project planning report for a new dormitory. The report, entitled Next House, has since been converted into a Facilities Plan which gives the specifications for exact type of space facilities to be included in the building — including a dining hall.

This plan was submitted to the architects this week and construction is expected to start around April. MIT Vice-President Constantine Simonides complimented the work done by the student-faculty Next House planning group commenting, "If we had not started the effort this January we wouldn't be ready to go ahead as quickly now."

The $2 million low-rise structure is being designed by the architecture firm of San-Jackson, the same architects who designed New House. When asked whether this implied the new dorm would emerge as New House II, complete with the architectural flaws often cited by New House residents, Senior Planner Reynolds Thompson of the Planning Office replied, "The reasons for dissatisfaction with New House are more from the directions to the architect than from the architect's plan. The January group did specifically address the problems of New House and the instructions to the architect should solve these weaknesses."

The parking problem on West Campus created by the new dorm is also under study. Not only will residents of the new dorm require parking spaces, but the dormitory will be constructed on what is now the site of the parking lot.

Thompson indicated new parking would be ready, probably on Vassar Street, before construction begins. The only contingency he noted might be the possibility of delay- ing the new parking until the following September if construc- tion was to begin after the end of the Spring term.

The $2 million grant will finance the opening stages of con- struction. MIT President Jerome Wiesner told The Tech the donor would "probably remain anonymous even after the dorm is opened, thus starting speculation about the identity of the new building. Wiesner commented that the donor could conceivably be named after another benefactor if any further grants are received to offset the remaining $8 million cost. According to Simonides, the incoming class size will probably range to 1100 after completion of the dorm and the additional income from the donor will reduce the revenue from the housing system should help finance the project.