Housing still uncertain for dozen freshmen

By Kenneth Snow

The University of Massachusetts in Amherst (UMass) closed its 41 dormitories and cancelled classes for its 24,000 students last Thursday, due to a severe water shortage. Classes had started on the previous Wednesday.

The closing was announced shortly after noon on Friday. The dormitories had to be emptied by 6pm and were then closed until Sunday afternoon. The closing set off a massive exodus from the town of Amherst, and campus and traffic jams resulted.

An emergency line was set up by the water supply of the neighboring town of Hadley and the opening of an unused well in the town of Amherst were completed on Saturday. These emergency measures alleviated the water shortage. A 1.6 million gallon town reservoir will open by the end of the month, and it is expected to help prevent any future water shortages.

Dormitory residents will receive an $8.60 rent rebate for the two days that they were denied access to their rooms. Also, students on any of the school's meal plans are eligible for refunds ranging from $14 to $17.

Student Government President Richard LaVoice said that he would press for total reimbursement of the cost of student transportation during the forced closing.

Many students who were forced out of the dorms were invited to stay in some of the school's fraternities. Liquor retailers reported that business was better than usual. According to one senior whose fraternity was short on water: "There's no water, so we'll have to drink beer."

By Jack Link

As of this morning, there are twelve freshmen still in limbo, living in the basement of Ashdown or the Non-Resident-Student-Association (NRSA), with the option of moving into a hotel at MIT's expense. That number has decreased from the 34 still in limbo last Friday.

As the situation now stands, the dozen freshmen remaining in limbo have been offered rooms at the Homestead Morton and Ramada Inn. The Hyatt was unavailable, said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert campus.

Water shortage closes UMass

By Kenneth Snow

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