Crowding problems plague area colleges

by Laura Farrie

Many local colleges have had serious dormitory housing problems similar to those now faced by MIT.

Boston University currently has 370 news students without a place to live, according to a Wednesday, September 10, article in the campus newspaper, the Daily Free Press. The Sherraton Hotel in downtown Boston is temporarily lodging 100 BU students, and an additional 170 are living in Brookline. The other 300 students are staying in lodges which have been converted into dorm rooms. Director of Housing, Marcus Buckley, said in The Press article "lounge dwellers may remain there until November 1st."

A staff member of the Daily Free Press described the BU housing situation as "a typical year, in which they attempt to give housing to every freshman."

"Buckley and Robert C. Bergsmen, Vice President of Labor and Public Relations, refused to release estimated costs of temporary housing," stated the BU newspaper article. However, Buckley said that it is less expensive to house students temporarily in hotels, than to rent them campus housing and have empty rooms later in the year. "We had been in the hotel business for seven years," professed the Director of Housing for Boston College, Richard Collins. The number of Boston College students lodged in hotels reached a high in 1970, when 516 students stayed in eight different hotels. By 1977, the number decreased to fifty students, who resided at Howard Johnson's Hotel. The newly-built dormitory at Boston College solved the housing problem. "We have the number of students this year right on target," declared Collins. 

Boston College's overcrowding problem occurred because the number of upperclassmen leaving the dormitory system fell sharply, according to Collins. The attrition rate decreased from 21 percent to 11 percent in the past five years. The new dorms currently house 500 students, and is expected to house 800 when completed, stated Collins. "I hope now our attrition figures balance out," he said.

In recent years, Tufts University had to house approximately 150 new students each year at the Sherraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, according to the residence information telephone line. This year there was no housing problem, because a newly- constructed dorm with space for 350 students was opened. Commenting on the housing problem he faced last year, a Tufts employment official said, "I didn't care about the crowding situation, because something was being done about it."

Brandeis University had few crowding problems. Forty-five double rooms have turned into triples this year, according to Jerry Ramos, of Residence Life in University Housing. "Everybody has a bed and desk, but things are crowded," he admitted.

The amount of crowding at Brandeis is on the rise, with thirty-five crowded rooms last year. Ramos said that he never planned for the crowding to happen, and that he does not know how it will change next year.

Fewer students were accepted to Harvard University this year to alleviate the dormitory crowding situation, said a staff member of the Harvard Crimson. She stated that there still exists a crowding problem, but not as large a one as last year. Many special and transfer students were admitted to Harvard with no guarantee of dorm room.

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Ward Committees endorse politicians

By Jerri-Lynn Scofield

The Ward II Democratic Committee, comprised of fifteen elected representatives including three members of the MIT community, has endorsed four 'progressive' candidates in today's primary.

Since the Republican party's influence in this state is rather limited, the Democratic standard bearer is virtually assured victory in the general election in November.

The MIT student vote could have a decisive effect on this election. According to Clifford Trumidell, Assistant Director for UROP and member of the WARD II Democratic Committee, there are approximately 450 MIT-students registered to vote in Cambridge. As many as 100 of those registered may still be carried on voting rolls even though they have graduated or left the Institute.

MIT students still could form a significant block, however, particularly in an election with great state and local emphasis. David Sullivan '74, a Cambridge City Council member, commented, "There is real power in the student vote. If students vote, they can have real influence on events in the state."

The Ward II Committee was joined by committees representing Wards III and IV in endorsing Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill for another term in the U.S. House of Representatives. O'Neill is currently serving as Speaker of the House. He is unopposed in this primary.

The Ward Committees have endorsed Peter Velucci for the office of state representative. Velucci is running against eight-term incumbent Michael Lombardi. According to a well-informed source, the Velucci/Lombardi race has been targeted as one of "the crucial left versus right" contests in the primary.

Lombardi's voting record has been very conservative on issues involving women's rights, abortion, capital punishment, environmental protection, desegregation, minority concerns, raising the drinking age, and banning handguns. Lombardi also voted against reaffirming state ethics codes, tightening financial disclosure provisions, and other governmental reforms. He is a supporter of nuclear power.

Velucci is opposed to capital punishment. He also opposes further development of nuclear power, feeling that difficulties surrounding hazardous waste disposal may make exploitation of nuclear capabilities "very unsafe under current conditions." Velucci is liberal on women's and minority issues, and is a strong proponent of protecting the environment. Velucci favors allow-

Ward Committees endorse politicians

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