Class of 1985 has highest percentage of women

1060 frosh accept so far

By Kenneth Snow

As of July 20, 1,060 freshman had accepted admission to the Class of 1985, according to Director of Admissions Peter Richardson '78. The 1,060 figure is only slightly more than the class size target of 1,050 set by the Academic Council last February.

Richardson explained that 1,060 is a very reasonable figure for this time of year because the summer melt of students who withdraw will usually cause approximately one to two students to leave each week.

The Class of 1985 will be comprised of 25 percent women, nine percent minority group members, and five percent foreign citizens. Students were accepted from about 850 public and private high schools in 45 states, 27 countries, and Puerto Rico. Stuyvesant High School in New York sent the largest number of students. Over 200 students are from New York, 56 from Massachusetts, and 117 from California.

Richardson explained that these figures will change slightly as some students cancel their plans to attend MIT, and others are removed from the waiting list. Changes are expected to be very small, so these figures can be considered an approximate profile of the incoming class.

As of this time last year, 1,107 students had accepted admission to the Class of 1984. The large number of students who accepted admission contributed to the overcrowding of the housing system.

The overcrowding problem should be further reduced by the opening of the new dormitory at 500 Memorial Drive. Overcrowding is expected to affect about 70 persons, compared to approximately 140 persons affected last year, notes Robert A. Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Gov’t may prosecute draft evaders

By Stephanie Pollack

The Selective Service System has provided the Justice Department with the names of 134 young men who have failed to register for the draft, asking for “investigation and possible prosecution” of those listed.

The names came to our attention by way of direct or indirect contact with this agency, according to the Selective Service. A spokesperson for the agency noted that because of restrictions imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, the names cannot be released. Those persons convicted of not registering can be sentenced to up to five years in prison, or assessed a fine of up to $10,000, or both.

MIT has no official position on registration or the draft, according to Dr. Louis Menand, Special Assistant to the Provost. MIT would not provide legal counsel for anyone who had not registered and was prosecuted, as it would not “for any other criminal prosecution,” Menand added. He noted that draft counseling was available at MIT from the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs or from religious counselors.

Draft registration began last summer, when young men born in 1960 and 1961 were required to file forms at the Post Office. A second registration occurred in January for those young men born in 1962. Currently, young men born in 1963 are required to register within 30 days before or after their birthdays.

Statistics compiled by the Selective Service System indicate that the rate of registration has declined. While 97 percent of the first group and 87 percent of the second group registered, less than 70 percent of those young men born in 1963 who should have registered by now have done so.

By the end of the year, almost one million men subject to registration will not have completed.

A spokesman for the Boston Alliance Against Registration and the Draft (BAARD) called the threatened prosecutions a ruse. He said that "the Selective Service laws are clearly unenforceable" and that the estimated one million non-registrants would "fill up the federal penitentiaries several times over."

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