Some crowding is unavoidable

Sherwood explained that a small amount of overcrowding is unavoidable. He said that freshmen may request crowding for any number of reasons. Crowded students also take the place of students who leave the housing system during the fall term. "We need some crowding so that we don't have empty beds second semester," Sherwood added.

The opening of 500 Memorial Drive also caused the crowding situation. Sherwood noted that the carpenters' strike, which occurred during the summer ended early enough for the building to be completed. At the time the building was designed, the class of 1985 was expected to be the 1100. The Academic Council later voted to limit class size to 1050.

Some students have already moved into the living areas on the top four floors of 500 Memorial Drive. The Turner Construction Company plans to fulfill its original agreement with MIT to turn the completed building over to MIT by September 1, according to Sherwood. He added that he is "delighted. It is fantastic to see students living there."