R/O 1981: residence selection going well

No frost in limbo, few crowded

By Jerri-Lynn Scofield

The opening of the new dormitory at 500 Memorial Drive has drastically affected the traditional distribution of incoming freshmen among dormitories, as indicated in the results of the first housing lottery, held last night.

As of last evening, all freshmen requesting Institute housing had been assigned to dormitories; none had been assigned to limbo. Freshmen may elect to place themselves in limbo if they are dissatisfied with their dormitory assignments meeting the following criteria:

"This has been the smoothest dormitory assignments meeting in the four years since I've been here," commented Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. He continued, "It's been a delightful experience."

"The only real surprise is the effect the opening of 500 Memorial Drive has had on the largest dormitories," noted A. Sherwood. He went on, "It's been attractive." According to Dean's Office, 77 percent of the women who entered the dormitory assignments lottery were granted admittance to their first choice dormitory. Approximately 78 percent of the women who entered the dormitory assignments lottery were granted admittance to their first choice dormitory. Approximately 78 percent of the women were granted their first choice, while the figure for men was slightly lower at 76 percent.

In contrast to last year, the dormitories were crowded with freshmen who entered the dormitory assignments lottery. As of last evening, 200 freshmen had designated 500 Memorial Drive as their first choice dormitory, while 243 students had been assigned to the new house. Sherwood indicated, "500 Memorial Drive is incredibly attractive." By Stephanie Pollock

Entering freshmen have become more conservative and career-oriented in recent years despite MIT policy of giving relatively more emphasis to personal factors than academic considerations in the admissions process, according to Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48.

The world has changed and getting a job is more important to the freshmen than it was six or seven years ago," Richardson noted. "Just as the nation has moved radically to the right, so have the kids.'"

Associate Director of Admissions Dade Langdale noted the increasing number of students who choose to major in engineering, rather than science as one indication of the career orientation of MIT students. Fifty-nine percent of the bachelor's degrees awarded by MIT last year were granted to students in the School of Engineering, with 27 percent being graduated from the School of Science. In 1974, 41 percent of MIT bachelor's degrees went to scientists, while only 38 percent went to engineers. Langdale also noted that the percentage of graduates from the School of Humanities and Social Science has dropped drastically. In 1972, that school awarded 12 percent of all bachelor's degrees, but the total had dropped to 5 percent by last year.

Richardson asserted that the conservative trend among incoming freshmen is a reflection of a similar national trend. He noted that "while MIT may be more conservative than it was three years ago, it's not more conservative than the world at large." Richardson also indicated that the Admissions Office has been in opposition to the trend toward career orientation among the incoming freshmen. "Twenty years ago the 800 [on the SAT] might have been enough" to gain admission to MIT, Langdale noted. "Over the period of the last 20 years there's been more a tendency to look hard at other things," Richardson continued.

Richardson acknowledged that the Admissions Office has "become less compulsive about..." (please turn to page 5)