Students note dormline problems

By Ivan Fong

Despite numerous student reports of dormline telephone difficulties, the Telecommunications Office of MIT's Department of Building Repairs and Physical Plant indicated yesterday that they were not aware of any problem.

Dennis Barron, Technical Manager of the Telecommunications Office estimated 80 dormlines around the Institute that he knew were not operating. "Normally, there are from 50 to 100 phones out of order," during residence/orientation week, noted Barron.

The 10th group of the unerected dormitory telephones is the installation of telephones in 350 Memorial Drive, according to Barron. "The majority of the phones in the dormitory, Barron, and the rest should be finished no later than Monday," he noted that the dormitory linen in the center and eastern sections of the dormitory was completed, and that those in the western section were only partially installed. Barron also attributed the telephone difficulties to the limited number of staff and student workers available last week. "Historically," he commented, "this takes between two to four weeks before we are back to the normal number of trouble reports."

Many of the dormitory desk workers maintained that there was a higher than usual incidence of telephones not working. Both Baker and MacGregor House workers complained of ringing telephones and phones that did not work, and callers who had trouble calling into the dormitory system, according to desk workers.

A MacGregor House desk worker said that problems may have arisen from "illegal wiring" by students in the dormitory telephone system. Also, the desk house worker noted, "Our system is older, and so problems don't always get fixed completely." He added that he knows of three inoperable telephones in Senior House, a number which is about "usual for this time," even though "Baker's
desk has not been working for a month."

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