Fewer accept admission to MIT

By Stuart Gitlow

According to the Admissions Office, the number of students registering for the Class of 1985 as a percentage of those admitted fell by 5.7 percent when compared to the same figures for the Class of 1984.

Generally, acceptance letters are sent out shortly before high school spring vacations. Last spring, the letters were not mailed until just after the vacation. It is unclear whether or not this practice is the actual reason for the downturn in registrations. The last time this phenomenon occurred, according to the registration figures to those admitted fell to 47.0 percent from 1975's 54.7 percent.

There is also a plan to send selected high school students in four under-represented states—Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, and New Mexico—a joint recruitment letter from the Ivy League colleges and MIT which, according to officials, was prompted by expected declines in applicant pools, increases in travelling costs, and interest in remaining national institutions.

After a steady rise in the ratio from 53.5 percent in 1977 to 70.2 percent in 1950, the percentage fell to 38.8 in 1981. Last spring, of 923 applicants, 1909 were offered admission; 1031 registered for the Class of 1985.

Due to this decrease, Peter H. Richardson, Director of Admissions, remarked, "We want our students to visit their old schools when they go home for Thanksgiving. We want them to visit their teachers and guidance counselors, and to talk to them about MIT."

Brenda Hamblton, Admissions Officer, added, "Kids need to know that they have first-hand knowledge of both the high school and MIT. They’ll learn to love it.

"The image of MIT determines who applies as well as who com-" ments Richardson. He further added that he is pleased "anytime we can have real live students interact with potential students."

"The admissions process is perceived as a bunch of decisions made here. It really isn’t. (The app-" applicant) makes a significant contrib-" ution to the admissions process. Given about 6000 app-" ications, we get them to look like approximately 1000. We work hard to be fair to each indi-" vidual in the group. It’s the indi-" vidual student we have to be concerned about. Then what hap-" pens? What’s important is that a large percentage, nearly half, choose to go elsewhere. These decisons are critical to who is go-" ing to be here."

Once an applicant has submit-" ted his preliminary application from MIT Today, and 12.526 did this last year, there are three ma-" jor screens the applicant must face before coming to MIT. The

cornerstone of MIT’s decision to invest $30 in one’s possible future education. Last year, 2022 make this choice. The second decision is made by MIT. The third, when possible, is on the part of the applicant. According to Richardson, this last in the ma-" jor decision “made by a whole bunch of people [not at MIT], I don’t think many people look at it this way.”

Some colleges, including MIT, send questionnaires to admitted applicants who choose not to at-" tend MIT asking their reasons behind their decision. "This year’s study is not yet completed,” explained Hamilton. "The reasons given aren’t necessarily the actual reasons. We are planning a new survey for the next year. I’d like to have some focus groups to discuss next year’s questionnaire."

NOTE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1981

When you need $65 fast, you find out who your friends are.

Lowenbrau. Here’s to good friends.