Dorm overcrowding seen

By Charles F. Brown
The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (OSDA) says the size of this year's incoming class will force more overcrowding in the basement dormitories than was previously planned.

It is too early to estimate how many dormitory rooms will be overcrowded, administrative assistant Barbara Chack said, but the Dean's Office does not expect overcrowding to be as severe as it was two years ago.

In September 1980, the dormitory system was crowded well beyond capacity. Seventeen freshmen shared each of the convexed lounge areas. Now, all freshmen dormitories have two rooms each.

The Dean's Office blamed the overcrowding on an unreturn of more upperclassmen than expected to the dormitories, leaving less room for freshmen.

The fraternities and independent living groups hope to house 415 freshmen this year, 35 more than last year, said Stephen Immerman, OSDA's Advisor to Fraternities and Independent Living Groups.

No fraternities are under rush restrictions this year. Two houses, the Wesleyan (WITG) and Fenway House, had similar difficulties before other living groups, because they need new more members than small, Immerman said.

The rush goal increased this year because several fraternities were not full last year, and others are increasing capacity. Immerman explained.

Last September, 62 beds in the dormitories were left vacant. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood blamed a smaller freshman class and fewer housing requests than expected on the turnover and returning students for the vacancies.

The opening of a new dormitory at 50 Memorial Drive added about 350 beds to the dormitory system last year.

The Insuline plans to install kitchens in East Campus and Senior House, but construction will not begin until next year, said Director of Housing and Food Services H. Eugene Brannen. The new kitchens will reduce the capacity of those two dormitories.

Two bedrooms in the MacGregor housemate's apartment are being converted to a two-room double, several rooms in Baker are being reconstructed to lounges, and tutors' apartments are being installed in Spanish and German Houses, reducing the dormitory system's total capacity by two beds this summer, Brannen said.

The Tech buys new editing system

By Burt Kalinski
The Tech installed a new $72,000 electronic text editing and typesetting system last week, replacing equipment purchased in 1976.

The Electronic Newsroom (TEN), an Automats Keyboards, Inc. UltraType 4001, represents the largest single investment by an MIT student activity with its own funds, according to Margaret Gibson, accountant for the Undergraduate Association.

The total cost of the system was approximately $72,000, said Richard Salt '83, TEN project director.

The Tech borrowed $30,000 from the Institute to finance the project, Salt said. The money is supposed to be repaid over five years, but, "we expect to pay it back well ahead of schedule." The loan is at 10 percent annual interest.

"We wanted to buy a front-end processor and a typesetter," Salt said, "but we couldn't afford both."

The Tech's board of directors decided to purchase a system with high-quality editing features first, he explained, "and we hope to have a good typesetter some time later."

Managing Editor V. Michael Bove '83 remarked, "We can now provide our staff the type of experience they would gain working for a well-equipped large city newspaper."

This is the most sophisticated and up-to-date system of its type in use by any college paper," Bove said. "In fact, few professional papers have equipment of this caliber."

"We'll never outgrow this system," Salt said.

Frequent breakdowns in The Tech's old equipment prompted the paper to buy the new system, Salt explained.

In March, The Tech contacted forty companies about electronic newsroom systems. Six firms returned proposals and submitted bids.

The AKI equipment, Salt said, was the easiest system to use, and it can interface to a variety of typesetters. These advantages, he explained, as well as the reputation of the manufacturer, led to a contract.

Salt hopes The Tech's old equipment, an older AKI system, can be retired in the fall. The new system, he hopes, will be linked to MIT's Chaos computer network. Today's issue of The Tech is the first to be produced using the new electronic system.

CEP drafts changes in fresh pass/fail

(Continued from page 12)

Instructors presently assess freshmen's performance twice a term with written evaluation forms. Some instructors include the fall term as well, assuming that students who have earned the credit have passed the fall/fail system.

Under the new proposal, instructors would send freshmen student activity evaluations in the middle of fall and spring semesters. Instructors would be asked to report equivalent grades for freshmen at the end of the fall term or those evaluation forms.

At the end of spring term freshmen would receive a printed sheet of their equivalent grades from the Registrar.

The hidden grades are intended to be seen only by the student and his or her advisor.

The CEP considered changes to the fresh pass/fail system for much of the last academic year. The proposed changes are "stretching the concept of pass/ fail a bit," noted Felix Villars, Chairman of the Faculty.

"There's considerable sentiment in the faculty that two terms of pass/fail are excessive."

Attention: Graduate Students

In the next week or so you will be receiving your Financial Registration Packet from the Bursar's Student Accounts Office, E19-215. Among other informational items, the packet will contain your Financial Registration Form which lists you expected charges and credits for Fall Term 83-84. If you expect to receive a TA or RA appointment for the Fall Term and wish to pay your fees by payroll deduction it is most important that you check the box labeled "Payroll Deduction Plan" on the form and return the top two copies of the form to the Bursar's Office by August 2, 1982. This is necessary in order to code your account for payroll purposes and thereby prevent you from being assessed a monthly finance charge as outlined in the new Bursary Payment Plan. Please do not hesitate to call the Bursar's Office if you have any questions at all.

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