Large class worries R/O head

By Jerri-Lynn Scafield
Residence/Orientation (R/O) coordinator Kenneth Dumas '83 is worried by the large number of students expected to check in at MIT today.

"Although it won't affect my job that much ... I'm worried a little bit about how it's going to affect crowding" in the MIT housing system.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA), which supervises R/O, is discouraging living groups from serving alcohol, since Massachusetts law prohibits persons under 20 years of age from consuming alcohol.

The R/O committee will not allow alcohol to be advertised, Dumas said, "although I'm sure fraternities and dormitories will serve her." Each living group must post a sign stating Massachusetts drinking laws in areas where alcohol is served, Dumas said.

"I can't say" if living groups will check identification before serving alcohol, Dumas noted. "It depends on the dormitory, it depends on the fraternity." 

R/O organizers, Dumas indicated, will attempt to improve the week for women. He expressed concern that some women may feel isolated as soon as they arrive at MIT. Women's R/O Coordinator Arlene Roane '83 has planned several activities to include women, Dumas said.

Last night, newly-arrived women attended a dinner to introduce them to the Institute. Before this afternoon's freshman picnic, all women discussion groups will meet, in addition to the traditional mixed gender groups.

Freshmen will then go their separate ways until Tuesday, Sept. 7, when they meet again for a picnic on Kresge Oval. This event, Dumas said, is planned "to encourage people to transcend their living group barriers. I don't want to discourage living group identity, but you can have an identity outside of your living group as well."

Frosh face overcrowding

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housing spots. The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) used liberal estimates for estimating the number of returning upperclassmen. Sherwood said, but current figures show "50 to 75 more on the books than ever before." He added, "We expect a lot of no-shows."

Last spring, MIT reversed its policy regarding transfer and readmitted students allowed to enter the housing system. These students will now be guaranteed space until they graduate or reside eight terms in Institute housing. Before the change, transfer and readmitted students were awarded spots on an annual, space-available basis, with no promise of renewal.

Though the new policy contributes to overcrowding problems, Sherwood described adoption of the new rules as a relief. "The crowding definitely is tolerable," he noted, "it's not optimal, but it certainly is tolerable."

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