MIT offers 1684 applicants admission to Class of 1988

By Andrew S. Gerber

MIT will send 1684 letters of acceptance to applicants to Class of 1988 tomorrow — the lowest number of acceptances in eight years. The Admissions Office accepted 28 percent of the record 6002 applications received.

Director of Admissions Henry Richardson '84 estimated an entering class of 1025. "The class size is smaller to help alleviate dormitory crowding next fall," he said. Over 80 percent of the admitted students are women, a record for MIT, according to Richardson. "To help attract three women to MIT, each admitted female will be sent an MIT T-shirt, and be invited to MIT during the weekend of April 6-8."

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Richardson said MIT is not admitting women over men to get a better male/female ratio in the incoming classes. "MIT admissions are sex blind. We must end up with a group of freshmen where the men and the women are academically equal." Names are included on each application, however, Richardson said, the "human factor" might always be involved. "If the applicants know that MIT needs more women, they might unconsciously favor a female's application."

"It is very hard to say if my particular female applicant is better than any particular male candidate," because of the "complex process" involved. Richardson added that although not much progress has been made in attracting more minority students to MIT, the shrinking is of the number of minority students that has been seen recently is encouraging and holds promise at MIT. He also expected that financial problems would not limit the percentage of admitted applicants who decide to matriculate.

There are 422 students on the waiting list, an increase of 53 from last year. "We didn't use last year's waiting list at all," Richardson said. "Around May 15th this year we'll decide if we will need to use this year's list." The list of students who have been accepted will be on display at the Admissions Office and copies will be available to representatives of living groups on Thursday, March 22, at noon. Richardson hopes many students will contact each other from their home towns over Spring Break.

Simplex opponents get elected

By Peter R. Vogeli

But all of the 13 members of the Group 1 slate, supporters of the Simplex Steering Committee, were victorious in the March 13 elections for the Cambridge Ward 5 Democratic Committee. The Simplex Steering Committee opposes MIT's plans for the development of the Simplex property.

Only one member of the Group 2 slate, most of whose members are more sympathetic toward MIT's development plans, was re-elected. Group 2 had controlled the Ward 5 committee for 16 years. The Ward 5 Democratic Committee has no legal power, but, according to members of both the committee and the Cambridge City Council, it is an influential body in Cambridge politics.

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