Boston rents aggravate crowding in MIT dorms

(Continued from page 1)

explained.

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Conversion of apartments to condominiums and speculation by landlords are "beginning to severely affect the housing available to students," she added.

The housing situation is particularly burdensome for incoming graduate students because they are not guaranteed Institute housing.

The highest level of dormitory crowding in MIT history, 220 rooms, occurred in 1980, the year before 500 Memorial Drive opened. Seventeen freshmen lived in TV rooms in the basement of Ashdown House that year because the ODSA could not find dormitory rooms for them.

Crowding will be reduced in the future if the Alpha Phi sorority finds an off-campus residence, he noted. Since Alpha Phi has no house, most of its members now live in dormitories. Establishment of an off-campus sorority house would increase the number of spaces available in Institute housing by 40 to 50.

MIT has searched unsuccessfully for an Alpha Phi house for over a year and is now contemplating building one on Institute property, according to Sherwood. The Alpha Phi national alumni corporation is considering support for the proposed construction.

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