Welcome new graduate students

MIT Cambridge
Massachusetts

Friday, September 6, 1985

195 rooms are crowded

By Katie Schwarz
The Office of Dean of Student Affairs has accommodated all new students applying for housing by crowding 195 dormitory rooms, according to Associate Dean of Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. Because of the high level of crowding, Sherwood is considering a review of the Institute's guarantee of eight terms of housing to undergraduates. Sherwood, Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBey, President Paul E. Gray '54, administrators, house presidents, and the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs will review the idea.

Sherwood expects the number of undergraduates returning to dormitories to remain high because off-campus rooms will remain high for the foreseeable future. He believes the Academic Council will not be reluctant to lower class size to an acceptable degree, since this would not maintain a desired level of tuition revenue. He therefore expects the current crowding level, which he sees as unacceptable, to continue.

Several factors can change the number of crowded rooms in the next few days. Sherwood said at least three students who failed to fill out dormitory preference cards on time still want housing, and a few new students with housing assignments have not yet decided whether to accept fraternity bids, he explained.

Crowding is also affected by upperclassmen returning to the dormitories. The Dean's Office will not know the exact number of upperclassmen until those not participating in R.O. return to campus on Sunday. There may be some "no-shows," Sherwood noted.

He also hopes that some upperclassmen residents will cancel their assignments and move off-campus, taking advantage of last week's waiver of the late cancellation penalty.

The current crowding level nearly equals the record set in 1980, when 204 rooms were crowded. Seven freshmen lived in converted TV lounges in the basement of Ashdown House for a term.

Ten lounges in MacGregor House have been turned into doubles, a measure Sherwood earlier indicated was very undesirable. The students in these doubles will have first priority in the housing system for uncrowding.

The most crowded house is Next House with 41 crowded rooms. There are also high levels of crowding in Burton House, East Campus, New House, Baker House, and McCormick Hall.

Upperclassmen are living in crowded rooms in several houses, including Next House, Burton, and McCormick.

Last week, Sherwood asked The Tech to publish a (Please turn to page 14) notice to students who were unable to fill out dormitory preference cards before last week's deadline.

By Craig Jungwirth
First in a series.

The Graduate Cooperative Society (The Coop) is negotiating to relocate The Tech Coop from its present location in the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center (a.k.a. The Coop or The Center) in Kendall Square by the fall of 1986, according to Dave Barrett, senior vice president of Boston Properties. The Coop properties are the developer of Cambridge Center. Representatives of The Coop could not be contacted for comment.

"We are having discussions with The Coop that we have been having for quite sometime," Barrett said. "A plan to move the MIT branch of The Coop to a new Cambridge Center ... is now being finalized," said Boston Properties President Edward Linde, in a story which appeared in the Aug. 31 Cambridge Tab.

"We're hopeful that it happens," said Robert Remer, executive deputy chairman of the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA). "It is our hope that it would be beneficial to Cambridge Center and so it's in the Center's interest if it were. If the Center would want to maintain the lower level and first floor of the current 3 Cambridge Center.

"Because we are in active discussion, we have been happy to open the design process to The Coop," Remer explained. Construction on 3 Cambridge Center (Please turn to page 14)

Gibson discusses outlook for OME

By Thomas T. Huang
Joyce Taylor-Gibson, recently appointed director of the Office of Minority Education (OME), yesterday described her intent to study the office's current state in order to begin looking to the future.

"We are excited at the prospect of having a person of Dr. Gibson's varied achievements head the OME," said Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBey. Gibson was selected from over 140 applicants last July, McBey said yesterday.

Ten years after its inception, the OME remains an academic support office charged not solely with under-represented minority students at MIT, including blacks, Hispanics, Mexican-Americans and native-American.

McBay said the OME should not be seen as a "mini-MIT for minorities."

The OME admisters Project Interphase, a by-invitation-only summer program designed to help newly-admitted students make a successful transition from high school to MIT; the freshman Watch Program, which monitors the progress of minority freshmen; and student tutorial and consultation programs.

Gibson said the office will eventually need to focus on research about the academic adjustment and retention of minority students at MIT which is inherently linked to that of all students.

Gibson is currently reviewing the OME's programs for... (Please turn to page 10)