Tewhey chosen to replace Sherwood

By Michael J. Garthten
James R. Tewhey, former associate dean at Smith College, has been named MIT's associate dean for residence and campus activities. Former Dean Robert A. Sherwood vacated that post at the beginning of August to become Boston College's dean for student development.

The position includes responsibility for Residence and Orientation (R/O) Week, as well as undergraduate housing, fraternity relations, and the scheduling of institute facilities. Tewhey held a similar position at Smith, he said, but noted that Smith, an all-women's college in Massachusetts, is smaller than MIT.

"An urban college has a different sort of hell than one in a rural setting such as Smith," he said. "In my five and one half years at Smith, Tewhey presided over "a major reorganization of the housing system, which seems to be very successful," he said.

Tewhey was most pleased, he added, "to see an avenue opened for communication between my office and a number of minority groups on campus.

Tewhey intends to spend this year's R/O Week observing what goes on at GT, he said. Plans to "spend ... time and try to learn" about R/O. "I am feeling my way through," he explained. "In any new job you need to take time to get an accurate picture of how all of the pieces fit together.

He admitted that he knew very little about MIT's R/O but said he had formed "some questions -- some impressions -- drawn from what people have told me." He further explained, "I am going to find some questions invalid, and expected others would be suggested by his observation of this year's R/O. Some MIT issues have already come to his attention, Tewhey said. "The role of women" and the fraternities "are the issues that immediately hit me," he said.

"How are women going to fit in R/O?" Tewhey asked. Referring to the record-high percentage of women in the incoming freshman class, Tewhey wondered if MIT might see an increased number of sororities. The change in the demographics seems very significant, he explained.

Continuing against hasty reaction, Tewhey reiterated his desire to wait until he has "had a chance to get into R/O (O) actually operate.

Tewhey also expressed concern over "the potential impact if the fraternities were asked to vacate in Boston." Some fraternities have faced difficulties getting their lodging licenses renewed, although no existing MIT fraternity has actually been denied such a license. The licenses are necessary for the use of the fraternity houses.

"There are some institutions where [fraternities and sororities] are a very positive force ... in other cases where they are not particularly positive; it varies from institution to institution," he said. Smith College allowed no sororities.

International R/O helps students

By Salman Akhtar
Three days before Residence and Orientation (R/O) Week began, Aug. 17, an all-female group of 70 freshmen arrived at MIT and were introduced to the campus. The next speaker was Associate Dean Evelyn P. Chiang '89, who introduced the International Students Association (ISA). This year's coordinator, Braden A. Gargilo, told the group that "it wouldn't make sense for us to allow those students in class and then have to put them out of class."