Large Frosh Class May Crowd Dorms

By Ben Reis
STAFF EDITOR

An unexpectedly large freshman class has led to what could be the greatest percentage of crowded rooms in a number of years. The Provost's office, which receives input from both the housing and financial offices, decided last year to accept a larger-than-normal sized freshman class, despite the fact that it would cause the housing crunch.

Elizabeth S. Johnson, associate director of admissions for information service and research, said that "the target number of enrolled freshmen gives us to the provost's office originally was 1150." The number, 100 above the usual levels, was later cut down, by request of the admissions office, to 1125. The current number of enrolled freshmen is 1147, which includes the "ten or so students who don't show each year," Johnson said.

James R. Culliton, vice president for financial operations, said that the decision to enroll more students was made two years ago, as a way of generating more revenue for the institute. "The plan was to enroll 50 students more per year, but since nothing was done last year, the number was raised to around 100 this year. Everybody had a say... it was not an easy process," Culliton said, adding that the housing office knew the effect the enrollment increase would have on the dormitory situation, and agreed to the new level of students.

Upperclassmen Work With Frosh During R/O

By Bill Jackson
OPINION EDITOR

As part of this year's Residence/Orientation committee, I was a Project MOYA (Move Off Your Assumptions) leader, and I helped train R/O counselors, a group of upperclassmen who volunteered their time to talk to freshmen before rush began.

This year, cynicism about rush as an institution has reached a new high compared to my previous three rush experiences. But my involvement in rush has shown me that there is indeed a positive side to R/O week.

As a Project MOYA leader, I had to spend several hours training over the summer, along with over 60 other members of the MIT community. During the dog days of summer, the games and activities seemed too silly and too foolish to ever play with 1,150 brilliant freshmen.

But as the day approached and "dress rehearsals" began, MOYA began to take on a life of its own. Enthusiasm built among the leaders as the hour drew closer. By the time MOYA was about to begin, rumors had spread around Bridge Field among the leaders that this class was "one of the rowdiest in MIT history." A rumor reached

ByReagan M. Lerner
STAFF EDITOR

Nearly all of the approximately 1,200 members of the Class of 1996 took the second annual Math Diagnostic exam yesterday afternoon, a test meant to tell freshmen whether they are prepared to take such basic subjects as Calculus I (18.01) and Physics I (18.01).

The test, which began at 1 p.m., was given in response to increasing complaints from the Department of Physics that students were unprepared for the rigorous math required by first-year physics subjects, said Margaret S. Lord, associate dean for curriculum support in the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office.

Freshmen were generally positive about the test, but disturbed as to the difficulty of the test. Some students said that they were not worried at all, and said that the test was fairly easy, while others said that they had not used some of the required formulas in a number of years.

A small number of students were less than pleased with having to take the test. "Since we're all taking calculus," said Julia C. Ogrydziak '96, "I don't know why we have to take this test."

Many freshmen said that while they had only spent a few days or weeks studying for the test, they now had a better grasp of pre-calculus material than would otherwise have been the case. One said that she identified the other MIT freshmen on her flight by the fact that he was studying for the test.

"It's kind of embarrassing," you feel that you've been doing okay."

By Kevin Fitche

A Confused Class of 1996

After their first two days on campus, most entering students are enthusiastic and enjoying themselves, although still somehow confused and disoriented.

Students pointed to Project MOYA (Move Off Your Assumptions) as being particularly successful. The Froshman Evaluation Essay (FEE) was seen as fair, despite the fact that many freshmen complained about having "forgotten how to write" over the summer.

The R/O check-in process, however, was far from popular, and was seen as being inefficient and disorganized. Also, freshmen who were placed in singles complained because they did not have anyone to accompany them to rush events.

The freshmen found their first days on campus confusing and hectic, but all seemed to be looking forward to rush actually starting. "I'm really psyched and confused, but not really sure what's going on," said Jacqueline Brewer '96. But when asked if she was looking forward to rush, responded with "Definitely!"

Karen Lindemann '96, who seemed rather untamed by the idea of rush, said, "It's scary. I'm confused (due to) being away from home and my parents." "Confusing," said John and Barbara Hecter, who were waiting for their son John C. Hecter '96. "It would be better if they did it second semester. Right now we just want to get something to eat," they added.

Expectations of rush were fairly similar, with freshmen predicting confusion but hoping to overcome it. "I figure it's like a big summer camp-type thing," said Joshua N. Goldberg '96, who plans to rush a fraternity, was expecting "lots of chaos, mayhem, and fun - but you have to still make wise decisions when rushing a frat."

Mark L. Gottlieb '96 said, "I haven't had time to come it. I figure it's like a big summer camp-type event." They added.

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