60 Spaces to be Available
In Huntington Hall This Fall

By Eva Moy

In an effort to relieve undergraduate dormitory crowding, MIT expects to sign a one-year lease for part of a dormitory at 620 Huntington Avenue in Boston within the next week or two, according to Arthur C. Smith, Dean for Undergraduate Housing and Student Affairs. The Institute also expects to rent the dormitory for a second year, Smith said.

The dormitory, called Huntington Hall by MIT, has 150 rooms distributed over five floors, MIT is renting 90 of these rooms. The other two floors will house students from the Massachusetts College of Art.

Huntington Hall is currently known as Baker Dorm, but MIT changed the name to avoid confusion with another MIT dormitory, Baker House, according to Smith.

MIT will be renting these rooms from MCA, which is in turn renting the entire building from the Westmount Institute of Technology with the intention of purchasing it in two years, according to Smith. MCA hopes that with the revenue from renting to MIT, it will be able to buy, and then renovate, the dormitory.

With rent set at $750 per term, MIT will not break even on this deal. In fact, the Institute will lose "a reasonably significant amount," said Andrew M. Eisenmann, assistant dean for Residence and Campus Activities. However, MIT is willing to absorb this loss to relieve the undergraduate housing crunch.

In addition to the low rent to attract MIT students, "Students who live in the dorm for one year are guaranteed return housing after that, as long as they are eligible for undergraduate housing," Smith said.

As soon as a contract is negotiated between Director of Special Services Steven D. Inman and MCA, Senior Vice President William R. Dickson is expected approve it in time for the fall term.

Students must respond by July 28 to an information mailing sent last Friday to reserve a room at Huntington Hall. The housing office will wait until these returns before making further decisions, according to Eisenmann.

Distance may be an issue

The main attraction for students will be the low rent, Eisenmann said. Rooms cost $750 per term as singles, about one-half of the cost of other dormitory rooms. If two students opt to live in a room as a double, each student would pay only $375 per term.

Smith is presenting the dorm's location as another incentive. "While you will live farther away from the Institute, you will be closer to students from other schools and be able to meet new people," according to the memorandum he signed. "It's an opportunity to have the independence of living off campus, Page 8

The Athena Upgrades
To SPARC, DEC

By Michael A. Saginaw

Old computers never die; they just become the butt of jokes by MIT students. That is the fate in store for the IBM PC-RTs that comprise 20 percent of the Athena computer workstations.

During the remainder of the summer and the fall, Information Systems (IS) will replace the outdated computers from 1989 with Sun SPARCclassics, IBM RISC System/6000 Power-Station 220s, and Personal DECstation 5000 Model 25s, which are all about 10 times faster. The IBM and DEC computers are already familiar sights in Athena clusters, but the Sun machines are new. The upgrade is part of the standard IS program to replace computers after they have been in service for four years, according to Gregory A. Jackson, director of Academic Computing. All three computers have 24 megabytes of RAM and at least 400 megabytes hard drives. They also use augmented brands of the UNIX operating system. The IBM machines use an operating system known as AIX and the Sun computers use Solaris. Both will continue to be adequate operating systems in the near future. But the DEC machines use Ultrix, which is "definitely on its way out," Jackson said. For that reason, MIT has bought very few new DEC 3000s this year and will not buy many in the future. DEC VAXStation 3100s will also be removed from public clusters by Independent Activities Period. The VAX 3100s is in obsolescence, especially high on the list to be replaced, according to Jackson.

Way beyond capacity

IS closely monitors how many unique users log on to Athena every day. Occasionally, the usage will spike well beyond capacity, and IS will be forced to turn off access to many users. This does not happen very often, however, according to Jackson.

The Daily Confusion
In The Tech

The Tech will publish the full text of The Daily Confusion, the guide to Resi-
dence Orientation Week events, on the back page of daily editions during R/O Week. This effort is in coop-
eration with the Office of the Deans for Undergraduate Edu-
cation and Student Affairs. The ODUESA will continue to publish separate editions as in past years.

Inside

- Religious groups to move to W1; W2 may be used as housing. Page 8
- Sea Grant's human-powered submarine places third. Page 9
- MIT joins in Bay State Games Page 11

02139 Wednesday, July 21, 1993

Widnall Nomination Expected Soon

By Eva Moy

President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Professor Sheila E. Widnall ScD '64 to be the Secretary of the Air Force July 2. If confirmed, she would be the first woman to head one of the military services.

Widnall is currently associate provost and professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT. "I am very pleased to be making this announcement," Clinton said in his announcement. "Sheila Widnall is a woman of high achievement — a respected scientist, a skilled administrator, and a dedicated citizen. I am confident that she will do an outstanding job of guiding the Air Force through this period of post-Cold War change."

Nomination timetable unknown

Although Clinton's announce-
ment came on July 2, the actual nomination and confirmation processes take much longer. Thus, the schedule of events is not entirely clear.

Currently, Widnall is in Wash-
ington, D.C., receiving briefings to "get her up to speed on the state of the Air Force," according to Major General David L. Mann, the first civilian secretary of the Air Force press desk.

Widnall is also paying courtesy calls to the 22 members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who will investigate her background and make a recommendation to the full Senate, Custer said. After a 24-hour grace period, the full Senate will vote on her nomination.

There are many obstacles hold-

ing up this process. First, the White House has not sent the paperwork to officially nominate Widnall. Second, Congress will close session August 6 and reconvene after Labor Day.

There's a possibility that if the White House sends the paperwork in the next few days and if every-thing works" Widnall can be con-

firmed before the recess, Custer said.

Although Widnall has never

The Weather

Today: Partly sunny, M.V (7°F) Tonight: Clear, dry, 64°F (18°C) Thursday: Chance of rain, 80°F (27°C)