Most Freshmen Pass Essay, Math Tests

By Eva Moy

When freshmen meet with their academic advisors within the next few days, they will find out how they did on the freshman essay evaluation and pre-calculus math diagnostic tests they took last Friday.

Thirty-nine percent of the 1000 students who took the essay evaluation received a passing score, down from 41 percent last year. In addition, 11 percent received a "conditional pass," and the remaining students received a "not acceptable" rating, according to Assistant Dean and Coordinator for the Writing Requirement Linda P. Perlmutter.

Of the 1973 freshmen who took the math diagnostic, 56 percent received an "adequate" rating, 28 percent were weak in one area, and 26 percent were weak in two areas or had a total score too low to pass, said Margaret S. Ender, assistant dean for curriculum support.

Last year was the first time that both of these exams were given on the same day. "My sense is that [if] they're going to have to do this,"

Housing Assignments Delayed

By Prasanna Tambe

Yesterday evening, freshmen found out the results of the housing lottery and made the move to their permanent dormitories. Most were pleased with their dormitory assignments, but a few were disappointed.

The lottery was conducted in a similar manner to lotteries of past years, explained Andrew M. Eisenmann ’75, assistant dean for residence and campus activities. On the first pass, students are placed in their first choice dormitories. Some students, including sophomores like Mark Roh ’97.

Although a few students, like James C. Li ’97, felt the delay was "understandable, because there's a lot of stuff to process," most students were upset. "I think they could have handled it a lot better," said Jeff Tsay ’97.

James C. Li ’97, felt the delay was "kind of frustrating," added Mark Roh ’97.

Some students, including sophomore transfer student Rana Biswas ’96, were trying to decide between pledging a fraternity and entering the dormitory system, and were anxious to learn the results of the lottery. Biswas said that "after a day's worth of programming," the delay was disappointing.

Unofficial Dormitory Assignments

Baker House 93 85
Bexley Hall 62 63
Burton House 106 105
East Campus 133 113
MacGregor House 60 60
McCracken Hall 91 85
New House N/A
Nest House N/A
Random Hall 22 29
Senior House 57 57
N/A = Not Available
Students Dormitory Desk or Housing

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Freshmen take the advanced standing exam for Calculus 1 (18.01).

Chemistry Classes Promote Teamwork

By Hyun Soo Kim

This semester, freshman chemistry courses will offer a pilot program called TeamWorks. For chemistry courses are Principles of Chemical Science (5.11) and Introduction to Solid State Chemistry (3.091).

According to Melinda G. Cerny, coordinator of education for the chemistry department, TeamWorks participants will help and learn from each other. "We're hoping to have a team who have a lot of chemistry background and other members who do not have as much."

They will learn from each other and eventually take on this [team-working] skill to use in other subjects," Cerny said.

The team will receive the same course materials as the rest of the class, but will meet at least once a week to discuss and work on problem sets. Team members will take exams individually.

Grading differs for 5.11, 3.091

In 5.11, TeamWorks participants will get the individual grade or the team average grade, depending on which is higher and as long as the grade is passing. "If an individual receives an A and the team average is a B, then the individual gets an A. The higher grade is what you get. But if your team gets a C, and you get a D, you would get a D. The only time a team grade counts is if the individual has at least a passing grade," Cerny said.

On the other hand, grades in 3.091 will consist of two-thirds of the individual grade and one-third of the group grade. Professor of Material Science and Engineering August F. Witt said, "It lowers the grade of the top student and raises the grade of the student with the lowest grade in the group. Including the team grade as part of the grade the student will receive provides incentive for the team to"

TeamWorks, Page 9

Grading system," which involved using handwritten preference cards, Eisenmann said.

Chemistry Courses will offer a pilot program called TeamWorks. The program emphasizes teamwork by offering students the option of working in groups of four to learn the course material.

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