Fewer Freshmen Visit Fraternities

Under the circumstances, our rush was really successful," Raul Valdez '94, PBE rush chair, said. "Rush is going pretty well. We weren't affected by the protest. We still have outstanding bids." Valdez was referring to the demonstration that was held for two days in front of PBE to protest a racial incident last spring. Valdez would not comment on the exact number of pledges. PBE had 12 pledges last year.

Many fraternity members who did not completely fill their spaces commented that the number of freshmen visiting houses seemed lower this year than in previous years. Paul J. Gordon '96, from Xi Eta Beta Tau, said "Last year we had 19 pledges in total, and the first day of rush we already had 17 pledges. We had an amazing rush last year. This year it was kind of down for everybody." Eric R. Martin '94 of Nu Delta said that more freshmen considered the option of living in dormitories. "In the past, we've always rushed against other houses, but this year, we had some of the guys go to the dorms... There seemed to be more of a tendency for guys to go to the dorms this year," Martin said. In addition, freshmen tended to deliberate over whether to accept bids this year, according to several fraternity members. "People spent more time debating whether they were going to pledge or not this year," said Ivan K. Oei '95, of Phi Delta Theta.

Many IIG members were very enthusiastic about the "quality" of the freshmen this year. Michael McDougall '95, Phi Sigma Kappa's rush chair, said, "We had the best rush by far in terms of quality. The brothers are ecstatic, and we have no complaints."

Student House met only half of their target of eight people, but Sandra J. Terada '94 predicted that they would receive more bids because many freshmen had not received dormitory assignments. She cited negative publicity about IIGs, especially by the Ad Hoc Committee for an Informed Rush, for dissuading many freshmen from rushing.

A few rush chairs interviewed last night were upset by the prospect that the pledge numbers might be published, saying that it was not their policy to do so. Daniel J. Dunn '94, rush chair of Alpha Delta Phi, said that the numbers are usually misinterpreted by freshmen. Many did not release their target numbers or just gave approximate numbers. Jill Elizabeth A. Krumm '96, of Fenway House, said that they do not rush with a set target.