R/O Week News in Review

Record Rush For Living Groups

A record number of freshmen accepted bids from fraternities and coed living groups this year, with 401 freshmen pledging by 2 p.m. on Sept. 1. The previous record was set last year when 380 freshmen pledged independent living groups, according to Clearinghouse Committee Chair Daniel J. Dunn '95.

"The weather cooperated, and people worked hard. I think over all it was an outstanding rush, but there's always going to be a couple of disappointed houses," said Neal A. Dorow, assistant dean and advisor to freshmen. Dorow said that 376 freshmen accepted bids this year, an increase of 26 freshmen from last year.

More Women In Class of '98

Forty percent of this year's freshmen class is female. It is the largest number of women ever admitted to MIT, according to Assistant Director of Admissions Zaragosa A. Guerra III.

The Admissions Office attributes this increase to a number of factors, including a new viewbook that focuses more on student life, a two-step application process, and a special letter sent to 1,200 prospective women applicants who scored well on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. These changes were made last fall and the Class of 1998 was applying to college.

Two other factors resulting in more women coming to MIT were higher attendance at the Campus Preview Weekend in April and an admissions video that has been put aside for about two years, Guerra said. There were about 50 to 75 more students than usual at the Campus Preview this past spring.

In the new viewbook that is mailed along with the application for admission, the Admissions Office attempted to "confront head-on a lot of the stereotypes" that prospective students heard on MIT, Guerra said. It focuses more on student life and stressing concerns that applicants might have about MIT, Guerra said.

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In the “Electric Fence” activity during Project MOYA, freshmen had to cooperate in order to get their group over a stretched wire without touching it. Here a freshman teases another student over the fence.

Distribution of the picture books with the original cover because the cover "could be misinterpreted as racially derogatory." Experiences on many campuses, including ours, clearly indicate such events have caused substantial anguish within the student body and community, despite the fact that no ill will was intended," Vest said.

H. Dorow, assistant dean and advisor to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

Many IIGs met or exceeded their targets by Sept. 1: Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Upsilon, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Beta Epsilon, Phi Sigma Kappa, Phi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Chi, Women’s Independent Living Group, Zeta Beta Tau, and Zeta Phi Beta.

The new Clearinghouse software helped keep track of freshmen, because the house could input information using MITnet instead of calling it over the phone, Dunn said. "It made rush less stressful for many rush chairs," he said.

The improved Clearinghouse system also brought more violations to light, said Dunn, who is also chair of the IFC judicial committee. "Clearinghouse enabled us to keep closer track of trips and charges won’t be pressed, even though now we know about all of them. We’ll only press the ones where people were angry," he said.

Clay Appointed Associate Provost

Professor Philip L. Clay PhD ’75, head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, has been appointed associate provost effective Oct. 1. Clay will fill the position vacated by Sheila E. Widzahl ’50, who was sworn in as Secretary of the Air Force last August. Announcing the appointment, Provost Mark S. Wrighton said that Clay will have responsibilities in promotion and tenure policies, academic integrity, faculty recruitment and retirement, and international education programs, according to an article in Tech-Talk.

"First of foremost, this position requires someone who has significant experience as a faculty member," said President Charles M. Vest. Clay will be a "key link between the senior administration and the faculty," Vest said.

The new associate provost will also represent the provost on the Faculty Policy Committee and deal with issues of tenure policy and academic integrity, Vest said.

In June, Wrighton said that he and Vest were discussing the appointment of an associate provost with wide-ranging responsibilities to fill the positions vacated by Widzahl and former Associate Provost for Institute Life Samuel J. Keyser.

Food Services Undergo Changes

Changes to Lobdell Food Court, Pittchet Lounge, and Networks typ a list of many improvements that MIT Food Services is preparing for the upcoming semester, according to Food Service Director Robert A. Allen said.

To achieve two goals this year—increasing revenue through new operations and improved customer relations," McBurney said. As a result, Lobdell is undergoing several additional changes: the addition of "D'Angelos Sandwich Shop and a Mediterranean Trade Winds, which will be selling Middle Eastern foods like falafels and hummus.”

Lobdell will also offer Mediterranean Trade Winds, which will be serving Middle Eastern foods like falafels and hummus.

Pritchett is being completely redesigned to incorporate a 1950s" motif and will be open for late night service during the weekends. "Pritchett will extend its hours to coincide

THOMAS R. KARLO-THE TECH

A freshman is supported and passed around by her group during the Move Off Your Assumptions form, for the benefit of community orientation Community Association to stop issues that have importance to the United States to depict African Americans," said Susan D. Allen, assistant dean for residence and campus activities.

The TCA, a student-run and funded nonprofit organization, produces the Freshman Picture Books. Rita H. Wochaler '96, who helped design the cover for the TCA, said that there was no particular reason why the monkey was chosen. President Vest stopped the distribution of its Freshman Picture Book because he felt its cover drawing of a monkey could be perceived as racist by African Americans. Publishing the books with new covers delayed their delivery until Aug. 30.

The original cover shows a monkey wearing glasses, dressed in a cap and a lab coat with a pocket protector, and holding a calculator. The monkey has one arm raised and