Record Number of Early Action Students Admitted

By Venkata Satish

The number of early action applicants for the Class of 1999 surged to 1,649, a 33 percent increase from last year, according to Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke.

Behnke expects the number of regular applications to be equally high, which would contribute to a record number of total applications this year.

According to Behnke, a total of 557 students, or 33 percent of the applicant pool, were admitted this year. This signifies a decrease from the 49 percent acceptance rate in 1994. A total of 503 students were admitted from a pool of 1,247.

Due to the increase in early action applicants, the Admissions Office expects to process a record 9,400 applications. Behnke said.

The number eclipses the previous high of 7,437, set in 1988. He said a major reason for the increase in applications is the economy, which has contributed an "increase in people's confidence about taking out educational loans," he said.

Another factor is that the Admissions Office has "been working for a couple of years to develop an admissions communication program using a new video, new publications, and more follow-up in personal mailings. That system became complete this year," Behnke said.

The main difference between early action admissions and regular admissions is that "we don't agonize as much on early action...." If we have to discuss them, we defer them for later on. If the

SHPC Report Prompts Action

By Angela Liao

Residents of Ashdown House and Senior House and members of the Graduate Student Council have been discussing the recommendations made in the Strategic Housing Planning Committee report that was released on Jan. 10.

The report proposed that the Institute convert Ashdown into an undergraduate dormitory while building a new graduate dormitory at the corner of Broadway and Nightingale.

Last Thursday, the SHPC began surveying Ashdown residents. "The residents have surveys in hand and we have planned for a tabulation party tonight," said Joseph J. Bambenek G, chair of the GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee.

Though the coordinators hoped to collect the surveys by today, "the MIT may consider extending the deadline for these surveys in order to get more responses," Bambenek said.

On the other side of campus, the Senior House-East Campus Action Committee held an emergency meeting Sunday to discuss the proposed housing changes.

The meeting resulted in a position paper, released late yesterday, which stated their views on the SHPC report.

The planning of Senior House renovations "has been thought-provoking, self-revealing, and time consuming," according to the position paper.

The statement also said that Senior House residents "believe that Senior House should remain an undergraduate dormitory" since "no clear alternative vision exists" at the present time. Residents also feel strongly that the renovation process "should embody cooperation, communication, and respect between MIT and the residents of Senior House."

GSC concerned with safety

Both Bambenek and Ashdown Chair Thomas H. Bumbirine G are concerned about the safety issues involved in moving the graduate students to the site of the proposed new dormitory.

While Crossing Harvard Bridge, Student Robbed

By Ramy A. Arnaout

At around 20 minutes past midnight on Sunday an MIT student was robbed while crossing the Harvard Bridge, according to a crime bulletin released late yesterday, which stated their views on the SHPC report.

The student cooperated, and the attacker fled on foot with $40 in cash, the bulletin said.

The victim described the assailant as a clean-shaven black male in his late 20s, about 5 feet 11 inches to six feet tall, 190 pounds, with stocky build. The man was wearing a light-brown jacket and jeans.

In the bulletin, Vossler offered this advice. "If a robber approaches you and demands cash, cooperate. Money or property are not worth the risk of injury. She also advised students to make use of Safe Ride.

William H. Ramsey '51 Dead at 67

William H. Ramsey '51, who directed the Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science program as executive director of engineering special programs, died on Jan. 14.

Ramsey was 67 and was planning to retire this summer, according to Associate Dean of Engineering John B. Vander Saarde. His friends and colleagues were shocked and saddened by the event.

A memorial service was held last Thursday, but another service will be held this spring, according to Dean of the School of Engineering Joel Moses PhD 67. "Bill was a very caring individual," said Professor of Mechanical Engineering Thomas B. Sheridan ScD '59. "He cared a great deal about the students, and he extended his caring to the whole community through community projects. Professor Emeritus of Aeronautics and Astronautics Leon Trilling, who worked with Ramsey through the MITES program, said, "He was a very wonderful human being and extremely skillful in understanding and the useful in dealing with the students that came to him."

"He had a combination of firmness and empathy which I much admired," Trilling said.

MITES allows about 50 minority students to take part in a rigorous academic program during the summer following their junior year of high school. Ramsey was also responsible for the Engineering Internship Program.

William H. Ramsey '51 Dead at 67

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The Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, 39°F (4°C)
Todnight: Snow possible, 29°F (-2°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 33°F (1°C)
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