Men's colleges are overcrowded; increase in freshmen responsible

By MORAG FULLILOVE

All four of the men's colleges are overcrowded this year due to a large number of freshman admissions under the Ten Year Plan, calling for a gradual increase in the number of students to 4000 by 1975.

The overflow conditions in the colleges is eventually to be relieved by a complimentary phase of the plan, the construction of a fifth men's college. The architectural design of this building was completed two years ago, but, according to Campus Business Manager J. Sims, no definite plans for construction can be made until "a sufficient need is demonstrated."

At present there are 49 rooms in overflow conditions, that is three men in a two-man room or five men in a four-man suite.

The men's college presidents felt this overcrowding was due to an increase of from 10 to 15 freshmen in each college.

Last spring, the colleges knew they would have this increased membership, although as Don Lamb, president of Wiess pointed out, "We didn't expect such a great number."

Each of the colleges decided to let all freshmen who wished to live on campus do so. As a result, draw systems were set up to determine which upper-classmen would be forced to move off campus. Lamb and Chuck Young, Baker Head Mentor, said they did not have to ask people to leave because many made plans to move off campus in anticipation of the overcrowding.

The colleges then decided to overload the rest of the rooms, rather than ask more people to leave. Special arrangements were made to give reduced rates to men living in overflow rooms. The normal room fee was divided by the number of men in the room, thus men in a two room pay only two-thirds of the original rent.

New furniture which was ordered for the extra men has not yet arrived, Lamb says. J. R. Garner, Manager of the Residential College expects it in within two weeks. The furniture problem was most acute in Wiess, short seventeen beds when school started. Lamb said (Continued on Page 3)
Crowded colleges

(Continued from Page 1) their college engineers finally constructed their own bunks from piping and old beds.

John King, head of residence at Haszen said some upperclassmen chose the overflow rooms because of the reduced rent. For this reason they were not as surprised by the poor conditions as freshmen placed in the overloaded rooms.

A greater problem according to Herr was the serious threat the overflow presents to the college system. With an increasing number of freshmen on campus in relation to upperclassmen, he felt “the college system could not function as it was designed.” Will Rice College residents are 40% freshmen.

Baker, the smallest college is used to the overflow. Young pointed out another problem is the necessity of giving important college positions to freshmen unfamiliar with the system, because of the lack of upperclassmen on campus.