For Freshmen Only

How many times have you been told that "MIT is tough."? Ten? A hundred? Probably more. Everyone who has talked with you about this place since you were accepted has taken the line, "Well, it's a tough school . . . but we all know you'll pull through all right. Good Luck!" And chances are, you agreed with them. You are pretty sure you will pull through all right. A study of the present Senior class when it was in its first year revealed that 96% of the men in the class counted on being in the upper half of the class academically. Needless to say, half of these freshmen were disappointed.

The study to which we refer is the Sussman Report. Dr. Leila Sussman, of Wellesley College, observed and interviewed the Class of 1961 throughout its freshman year; her report was made available last Spring. We recommended at that time that all of you be sent copies of the Report, but nothing was done about it. So we'll take it upon ourselves to pass on to you a few of the facts contained therein that concern you directly.

Lack of school spirit at MIT was a complaint of many of the entering freshmen. 75% of dormitory residents also felt a lack of house spirit. Apathy was sensed all around, not only toward school and living group, but also toward classmates. One fourth of the freshman class reported that the end of the year that they had only three or less close friends. Time was scarce; entering freshmen, most of whom had done very well in high school, found themselves with time for nothing but school work. Whereas in the four years of secondary school, twice as much time was spent in recreation and social activities as was spent in studies, at MIT this ratio was reserved.

The subject of the freshmen's complaints was no surprise. Some of the precise statistics were. Our purpose in printing a few of the more disturbing ones is to start you, the Class of 1964, thinking about the problem areas that you will encounter.

Do not feel, however, that you have run into a brick wall. At MIT the problems mentioned above are not considered unsolvable. Much has transpired since the present Senior class arrived; every year sees further development of MIT as a community as well as a technical institute. As MIT evolves from an impersonal diploma factory to a genuine university, with an intellectual and cultural life outside the classroom as well as in, each successive class gains a little more from its four-year experience. A welcome, then, to you, the newest members of the MIT community.

Be aware that you are a part of the dynamic reality that is MIT, and do your best to improve both the school and yourselves in the four years that lie ahead.

Smaller But Better

Our readers of past years will note that The Tech has undergone some changes over the summer. The tabloid size has been adopted as being more economical. Henceforth the paper will appear on a weekly basis. We feel that these changes will improve The Tech and allow it to serve the community better. Our editorial page is, as before, at your disposal; letters to the editor are welcome and will be printed if it is in any way possible. Last term the number of letters received took a sharp upturn at The Tech; we felt that the paper's effectiveness and worth was materially increased by their publication. We look forward again to discussing with you the issues that confront MIT, as we move into the last year of our first century.

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