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Random Observations

Double Life of Husband, Student Is Followed By 1400 Men At MIT

By Mary Gail Menzel

In the Report of the President of MIT, recently published, one finds, under "statistics of the Year" that married students account for 4 percent of the graduate enrollment at MIT. Assuming that in every case it is the husband who is the student and the wife has helped (which may not necessarily be true — that is, as regards the division of labor, not the characterization "help- meet"), we may conclude that over 1400 MIT men out of every possible 6200 are leading the double life of husband and student (or for those more triangular, are also fathers).

To accommodate the understandable desire for togetherness of these student-families, and in recognition of the scarcity of apartments off campus, the Institute has announced the projected construction of 1963 of a married-student housing complex.

These interesting statistics, coupled with similar reports from other colleges and universities, may lead one to shuffle gently to the conclusion that college is no quite the refuge for the wedlock, or the pillar of the end Casanova it once was. We may leave it to the sociologists to explore, or deplore, this trend; they may find it a ramification of the practice of "going, steady," or attribute it to the insecurity or impatience of a cold war generation, or possibly imbibe some less sinister-sounding motive: the desire to lead a student marriage.

Aside from the universal reasons for marriage, which one might assume MIT men share with other students, there are certain additional advantages to be gained from that hallowed institution for the student if he is discriminating in his choice of a wife. The most important caveat to be observed by the prospective husband is Can He Type? It is even advisable to administer a test of speed and accuracy to the applicants if it is possible to do so in some decisive way. Of course, the lucky girl's doory must include a typewriter of reasonable vintage and condition, plus several spares of ribbon. Secondly, she must be able to stand spelling errors in your manuscripts and correct them unhesitatingly (also fill in omitted subjects, predicates or verbs when necessary). A third attribute which may distinguish a really good wife from a merely adequate one is an aptitude with the slide rule, which will free you from tedious calculator calculations. Also, some wives have been known to contribute to the family support by selling magazines door-to-door. (Good morning, I'm working my husband's way through college...).