Freshman fights, meets computer

By Mitchell Sevlin

"Uh, pardon me sir, but the computer forgot to give me a shift replacement!"

My two day fight with the computer had begun. The computer had originally given me a decent schedule but now it seemed that it comprised against me by not giving me a course that would teach me how to be its master.

When I came to pick up my revised program, I expected to see the same schedule with 6:47 stuck in somewhere. But instead I saw that it had stuck 6:47 in very nicely but proceeded to take the rest of my subjects, put them in its space-eater brain, turn the clock 15 times, and had come up with a mess meet up.

Among other inaccuracies, the computer had ordered me to go from 54-1510 to 3-277 and then to 37-232 during the 30-minute break. First of all, where was building 37? "It's that damned-in-building on the map," offered a friend.

"No, that's building 9; 37 is over here," returned another.

"Thanks, but I'd check it myself," I went to K29 to ask someone who knew. The first good student I met pointed, "It's that damned-in-building here!"

"No, that's building 9; 37 is over here," a more knowledgeable voice interjected.

"OK, but how do I get from building 1 to building 37 in ten minutes?" I asked.

You're too lucky.

"That's the trouble with you freshmen. You're too lucky to do anything!"

I woke up early the next morning to start my battle. First to my counselor. "He's not in," observed the secretary as she looked in an empty room. "Please leave a message." I scribbled a note and as I left, she suggested that I try the department office of the subject I wanted.

I went to the department's office where I saw a huge line waiting for the "dragon lady" as the faculty affectionately calls the head secretary. After a half-hour wait, I told Miss D, "I'd like to switch back to my original revolution!"

"Why?" she barked, flames emanating from her nostrils. I felt like I was being interviewed by the stake. I told her the reasons and she accepted them but curtly noted that all revsitions were filled for the semester. "You'll just have to wait. Sit tight. Next!" I was snubbed.

To prove my point to myself, I went to 54-1510 and tried a second time to talk to Miss D. It took 1/4 minutes to be let in to 37-232. It was recommended that I go through building 13. But between 13 and 37, I found I had to fight unfulfilled rusty pipe, sphinxes, and mud. I finally got to the room after nine minutes.

Distracted, I trooped back to Miss D and asked if anyone switched out of the time period. "Not yet; sit tight." The room was full of hot air.

MWF tried out

The next day, I tried out the schedule for MWF. I went to 1-277 just in case Miss D threw me back in there. The instructor there read off a list of names and told anyone not on the list to see Miss D. At Miss D's (she was wearing a crimson dress that morning) I was told that there were no vacancies but that I should "sit tight."

In my class in 37-232, sometime 37-232 to convince people, the instructor said that the class will be changed to building 2. That meant I didn't have to walk as much. Still, the revision I was trying to get into was more convenient because it was in the same room as my class in the previous hour.

I decided to sit in on the class that I planned to be in. To my amazement, the same instructor was sitting in front of the class. I explained my situation and was granted refuge from Miss D. Since the original class was more crowded, I decided to tell Miss D that I would accept what the computer had given me. Her face matched her dress as many things raced through her mind.

I edited her office bumbling "Put the Magic Dragon" reminded that I had the battle with the computer.

Incomm plans Viet poll in conjunction with elections

In an effort to diversify its activities and play a more meaningful role in student life, Incomm will tentatively conduct a poll among MIT students on the war in Vietnam as a part of student government elections this fall. The poll, which is actually more in the form of a questionnaire, was presented to the Incomm meeting Thursday night.

Most of the questions on the poll allow the student to select one of seven to nine responses, each of which summarizes the position of a major segment of the American population on that particular question.

The questionnaire consists of three portions. The first and shortest requests the student's overall evaluation of his political views in one of a few main categories (left, left or right wing, Republican, etc.). The last section asks the student's opinion of student government polls.

The second section contains the main body of questions on the war itself. Those responding to the poll are asked to indicate their opinions on the causes and results of the war, and are also asked to recommend a US policy which will bring an end to the war. Just how many students will take the time to participate in the poll remains to be seen.

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