FIJI ISLAND PARTY

By Joe Fabitz

On Saturday, May 5, Fiji Island Party (FiP) returns to MIT. Every other year, the Fiji Gamma Delta Fraternity sponsors the traditional event for the benefit of the Institute Community. In the opinion of some of the fraternity members, if you don't enjoy the evening, it's probably your fault.

FiP's (Fiiji is the self-proclaimed nickname of the fraternity) are held at over 100 colleges and universities throughout the nation. The parties usually have between 100 and 1200 people attending, but no matter where they are held, the costuming and atmosphere is remarkably similar.

At MIT, FiP's have been held every other year for the last 20 years. Before that, FiP took the form of a "cowboy party" and records show that this event had its origins in the late 1930's. At one time, "Fiji Island" was the only Institute sponsored fraternity party, and was usually funded, at least in part, by MIT. Most Tech graduates will remember these events seem never to forget.

If you're attending this year's event, you might want to know how to dress. FiP is a costume party, and officially a costume is allowed one square yard of cloth from which two costumes are to be made. Grass skirts, bathing suits, and various improvisations are acceptable however. Accessories like bears and shack's tooth necklaces are also common. Above all, don't forget your coconut, especially if you're going to drink. Hollowed out, they make perfect leak-proof containers for the punch or beer. Finally, you are hereby warned that the punch contains about 15% alcohol and that a coconut holds more than you think. Some Fiji islanders tend to hold less than they think, so emergency buckets will be provided.

The party will be held at Salina Park in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Buses will be provided at a cost of $2.00 per couple. If you're planning to drink, it is probably wisest to take a bus. To get into the party, you'll need a free ticket or an ID. Everything else is provided for you.

All tickets, directions, and information are available in the lobby of building 10, at the Fiji House at 28 the Fenway, Boston, or by calling 247-8048. Everyone in the MIT community is invited.

Salamander - the backup group for Friday's concert.

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