The late, great American dream

By Lee Giguere

A little over a week ago, on Friday, May 4, a number of MIT students converged for the last time on another old-fangled rock group called Sha-na-na. As student politicians talked of a revival of the East Coast as a campus social event, the past seemed to be coming alive at MIT.

A few other events of the past year offer a foretelling of what at times seemed a 1950s revival. According to a story in The Tech, the old sport of pledge raids is being revived. (A pledge raid, for those who can’t remember – and that probably means a majority of MIT’s current faculty – is a type of hazing that freshmen fraternities are engaged in.)

Such harmless pranks were part of an era that seems to be coming alive at the present time. We are not suggesting that anything like this should be encouraged, nor do we endorse that particular group. The fact that all these events occurred in the same academic year suggests that a tremendous change in climate has taken place at the Institute in the last few years. In the 1950s and early 1960s, none of these activities would have been possible.

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