Frosh first week filled with orientation activities

(The following article was written by Libby Sejel and Alston Kohler, members of the R/O Committee, as a guide for freshmen to R/O Week.)

You have most probably received more reading material on MIT than you can possibly digest and therefore have learned your first lesson about this school — "transmutation" is not a word here, it is a philosophy. MIT believes in drowning you with more information than you possibly can take in so that you have to make the decision about what you want to learn about.

The Freshman Handbook, Undergraduate Residence pamphlet, fraternity mailings and activity sheets may seem like they are too much to sort through. The secret is to skim them through and pick out the sections you think you'd like to have a little preparation for before you get here. Read those THOROUGHLY (also remember to make a mental list of all the questions you couldn't find answers to — they'll make great conversation starters R/O week!) and say the hell with the rest. Go outside and get some answers to — they'll make great conversations all the questions you couldn't find answers to when you go here. As a matter of fact the whole R/O week schedule can't even be written down until after R/O week unless you establish a way then to keep in touch.

The Freshman Handbook has an outline schedule for R/O '74. Transpose the dates and you will have a good framework for this year's R/O Week. Some of the times will be given more specifically here, but you will receive a more complete copy of the schedule in your packet here. The next paragraphs are brief explanations of some of the components of this year's R/O week. Please feel free to drop in by the R/O Center and FAC Office at any time with questions once you get here.

R/O Committee
Upperclassmen who have volunteered to organize and run activities for R/O week. Usually great resources for information on activities. Maybe TOO friendly?????

R/O Center
The West Lounge in the Student Center is open from 4pm to 12am all of R/O week as a resource center. R/O workers will come there to see what they can help with and hopefully freshmen will come there for information (both written and verbal). APO, the service fraternity, runs the R/O Center and they LOVE helping people out! — don't be shy about giving them a try.

R/O Coffeehouse
In addition to the 24 hour student coffeehouse, the R/O Committee is opening up a larger coffeehouse from 8 til 11 every night in the Mezzanine. Live entertainment and refreshments will be provided some nights and there will be a single room for games, music and good conversation.

Daily Confusion
This is a daily schedule of events. It contains fraternity and dormitory parties, lists of the daily events within the institute and reminders about bureaucratic due dates. Extra daily handouts will always be in the R/O Center.

Clearinghouse
The computerized system which helps keep track of who is where. Freshmen dormitories (and some dormitories) call in lists of freshmen as they come and go from their living groups. This way no one living group can hoard a freshman. There is a direct line to Clearing house from the R/O Center. R/O workers staff the computer terminals for the first five days of R/O week.

Institute and regional tours
This year there will be tours both of areas around MIT and special tours which "You've always wanted to know about MIT but were afraid to ask." Some are tunnel tours, Back Bay architectural tours, expeditions to the Arnold Arboretum and the list goes on. . . Check for tours at the R/O Center.

Noonhour events
During the year in Lobby 7 (the main lobby) different groups perform for an audience who happens to cluster there at noon. During the five weekdays some R/O week different activities will be "doing their thing." Drop by. It's a good opportunity to see what you would be interested in participating in.

Academic Orientation
Academic Orientation introduces you to MIT. Concurrently at 2:00 there will be a brief orientation for computer subjects (listed on page 138 of the Freshman Handbook) for those people who would like to know what the different types of computer courses are at MIT.

Hopefully many of your academic questions will be answered at the end of Wednesday afternoon, but if they're not, don't despair. You can always go to the R/O Center for help. Also, plenty of upperclassmen will be around to give you advice (though it may take some initiative on your part to seek them out!) Also on Thursday you will be meeting with your advisor to fill out your course registration form. He or she will be able to direct you to the right resources, too.

Thursday afternoon the freshmen and graduate student orientation committees are sponsoring an institute open house. Departments will be sponsoring tours of labs and research demonstrations. Many faculty and upperclassmen will be on hand to talk with you about their courses, majors and hobbies. You can also stop by to ask them last minute questions about registration, though we hope you will give yourself the chance to become familiar with the right resources, too.

---

(Please turn to page 3)