Surviving at MIT: a graduate tells all

By Paul Schindler

(Michael McNamara, editor of the student daily, wrote back from Indiana in time. The editor of Vol. 93 was prevailed upon to step out of retirement and write this column.)

Freshmen are probably tired of being told what they should know, but seniors don't care. Juniors suddenly realize they know everything, and sophomores are tired of being told what they should know. So, the effort here will be to entertain and inform painlessly, and if possible, to impart what wisdom is available from a Sloan School graduate with two years perspective on what it's all about. Thus, it is what you need to know about MIT.

Activities

Sometimes referred to as extra-curricular, once dubbed the "sixth school" (the other five are architecture, engineering, science, humanities and management), known to students as a "little sink," known to some faculty as a "poor excuse" and known to nurds not at all, are the one-hundred-and-some odd student organizations. The range of interests is large and quite diverse. (The Freshman Handbook should be read elsewhere, it is a good idea to echo that you have no doubt already heard.)

For those not interested in the "right" living group, the least enthusiastic and talented, the above statement may seem silly and false some day, as you push cards late at night or open the better version you that you are an academic. Take the plunge.

Law school hopefuls should keep in mind the desirability of a varied and mixed list of activities on the upcoming application, without overlooking the fact that some enjoyment may be derived from participation.

In closing, let it be noted that for many, the pleasant association of an activity can grow, eventually, to become the most significant part of their MIT experience. For some, it becomes the life work. Don't cut yourself off from anywhere with potential for personal proliferation.

Academics

Another great area for potential interested as you are in seeing that you learn something. Some people have told me that the most significant part of their MIT experience is that the most that you will find the faculty are as validity is the old saw that says you will probably get along with just about any group of MIT students you choose to live with.

Hopefully, you heeded that advice during rush week to keep down your paranoia about picking the "right" living group. Hopefully, if you are an upper-classman you will not be laughing too hard. And remember, it only pays to get along. Some people get along a lot, some people get along a little.

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