**Making MIT livable: a freshman primer**

By Glenn Brownstein

"Abandon hope all ye who enter here" was what it used to say to the Freshman of the Freshman Picnic. Those ominous words were missing this year, but you’ll be happy to know that they still apply. The trickle of returning upperclassmen not involved with R/W Week allowed the freshmen who still need it enlightenment; most are starting to learn the truth already, what with the tasks MIT demands of its incoming class.

It’s really very simple. Show up Thursday or Friday, take four or five days to find a place to live (in some rare cases you’ll even wind up there), go through an academic program in another two or three days, spend two more days plotting out activities and free time (which), and come in for Orientation. Day happy, healthy, content, and ready to get your full $400 worth of torture.

It’s not a lot of money, but in reality, it’s probably your worst. For one thing, don’t worry about your living group. Chances are you’ll have little trouble getting along with any group of students you decide to live with. And transfers to other groups are possible. For another thing, almost all the freshmen you meet are at least as utterly confused, perplexed and bewildered as you yourself will be useful — they might be transfer students or upperclassmen subversively posing as freshmen, or Cambridge archdukes caught up in the rite of O.O. Week.

It’s to move to the present. Many freshmen are settled in at places of residence (chosen, or otherwise), and have weathered the Academic Midway, a meeting with an advisor, and the usual "Hi, there. What’s your name? Oh, where are you from? So, I guess you’re interested in physics (or E.E. or biology). Well, this is the best place to go for that. Play any sports? Gee, we could use a new running back for the football team. What sorts of things did you do in high school? How’s bungee jumping? Well, MIT’s kind of large, but very friendly and a great place to learn. They say education here is like a drink of water for your soul, ha.

The most important thing to remember here is that while academics will take up much of your time, you will go crazy unless you find other exciting and enriching extracurricular activities and involve yourself to give you more things to do than you ever have time for. This "extra school" (the five lecture slots of the core curriculum) is architecture, engineering, science, management, and humanities) can give you more pleasure than anything else on campus, if only because it provides a convenient escape from the academic drudgery. Community is accessible only for nuts and peemuls. Unless the graduate school you plan to attend is one with a fields of study and interests similar to yours.

Tonight’s midways will give you a chance to explore some of these interests, and it’s always a good idea to sample a little of everything. Except for athletics, where it’s usually important to attend the first practice of the season, there really is no rush. If you wish to join in September or mid-March — the benefits are the same either way.

The MIT administration is kind of saying that any one accepted here can handle the required academic load. That’s true, no matter what you may think. Next week, next term, or when (if you graduate). Be practical — don’t take courses subject to your expiration, or your reputation; flexibility do to some sampling of various courses and subjects. Keep in mind that college is supposed to be enjoyable, not torturous drudgery, and that the dawn of a new day is some sleep again in a while. Many professors accept death as a valid excuse for handing in a problem set late. But Insculpt content week at 1:30 P.M. you are still required to be present for Professor 23 MIT. Branch, Cambridge, MA. 02139. Drones to Room 420-483, B Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Telephone: (817) 263-1841. Advertising and subscription rates available on request.

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**Free parking for students**

A copy of this letter was sent to:

Dear President Wiesner:

This letter is written on behalf of the Housing & Community Affairs Committee of the Graduate Student Council, regarding the decision of the Academic Council to charge a $5.00 parking sticker fee for on-campus parking. It is requested that the decision be modified so as not to include students, or as a minimum, not to include residents.

It is felt that students should not be required to pay this fee because this will just be a further drain on the net funds remaining after tuition and rent. Also, the majority of the student parking is at the extremes of the campus, e.g., Westgate and Eastgate parking lots, and as such, are far off the main campus complex. Finally, Vice President Stoddard editorialized that the fee is supposed to cover the increased cost of administering an MBTA pass program and computerized carpooling. The residents will not benefit from any of these services and hence should not be required to share the cost.

Some suggestions are as follows: To comply with the EPA guidelines, MIT could reduce the number of on-campus commuter parking spaces by 10-15 percent as of last week of July Please send all correspondence to: P.O. Box 29, MIT West Garage, Cambridge, MA.

For the Editor:

Shawned by his professors and distraught by the defense contracts in his own Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Phil Moore seized the opportunity for spontaneous combination at the Freshman Picnic. I will not deal with the simple fact that he took advantage of his position to express purely personal views. I will, however, point out how imprudent it is for students to get involved in these affairs and deal with the unfortunate choice of a forum. The sad fact is that Phil Moore used his position as UAP to express his personal opinions at the Freshman Picnic complete with a captive audience of 1,400 people.

Two issues are important here first, the simple fact that he took advantage of his position to express purely personal views violates a promise made to the UA General Assembly last spring. One concludes that he is not trustworthy. Second, most of his audience were not in a position to recognize the division between Mr. Moore’s personal observations and facts in the real world. This would indicate that he is an imprimatur. Phil Moore cannot possibly hope to represent a stroll across an intersection of popular thought at MIT if the issue is weightier than describing the perpetration at a Folk Dance Club meeting. He should therefore attempt to be a petty bureaucrat, not a leader. For that is what we expect from our UAP. No one will ever deny him the opportunity to apologize for wasting part of an otherwise pleasant Friday afternoon.