A tradition that lives on: MIT's baptism ceremony

By Glenn Brownstein

By this time all freshmen should have towed off, gotten back to study, and relaxed in the initial 8.01 test despite the momentary intensity they had to suffer Tuesday evening. I'm referring, of course, to that little jolt of emotion. Freshmen Shower Night, held every year on the eve of the first Physics exam, in which scores of freshmen are forced to submit to a brief, cold, fully-clothed shower.

An interesting feature of this ceremony, which reciting their annual personal days, takes greatest pride in dunking their victims, although many appear

just in time to admit and soak another group of potential showerers.) One example of that is in this week's ErgXo. However, there are a couple of small refinements before the exam (by which time most people will not be

bathing anymore),\n
none of whom, I'm told, is any better off.\n
My experience has been in previous years. the shower "tradition" has been in effect only on a sporadic basis. While there have been more than a few other similar attempts to inundate newcomers, besides all of the\n
"clean-up" act at MIT about fifteen years ago, fraternities used to grab all the headlines about showering freshmen.\n
That's basically what Freshmen Shower Night is to me: an initiation rite, a campus ceremony into Engineering, or whatever. It's unfair, as much nonsense as the whole thing. As far as how come there's not a Transfer Student Shower Night, or an Upperclassman Shower Night, or a non-fraternity who come out of this except perhaps some of the hands-on\n
involvement of freshmen, I'm not sure whether I should be happy or push for that last supposition.\n
The overall point, though, is that it's a waste of a whole lot of time. In light of that, it's a good idea to mellow out a bit and come up with some ways of doing it.