Everyone at Institute set to aid freshmen

By William Lasser

"The majority of undergraduate men and women enter MIT as members of the freshman class, directly following completion of secondary education." — 1976-77 MIT Bulletin, General Catalogue Issue

This rather unsurprising fact has given rise to the yearly ritual of residence/orientation week, a ten-day period in which 1,100 high school seniors are quickly and hopefully painlessly transformed into full-fledged MIT undergraduates.

Despite anything else that might happen, this goal is paramount, and all students involved in residence/orientation week have mobilized for it, and it is achieved.

Scores of upperclassmen have returned early to work on R/O activities; professors whose only concern the other 51 weeks of the year is teaching or research have suddenly become freshmen consultants. Freshmen and dormitories turn their attention to making sure the right people end up right places.

In ten short days, people whose only contact with the Institute was perhaps a visit last April and certainly mountains of folders, brochures, pamphlets and letters will become vital components of a self- perpetuating institutional which for well over a century has been accepted and trusted to do the right things — when you are not around, I am referring to, of course, the freshman class.

A few tips for Rush Week

By Dave Dobos

You are probably one of the four most unique and well-rewarded recipients of your MIT experience: Rush Week. If you are interested in pledging a fraternity, the following hints and insights may be helpful:

- First, fraternity is looking for a personality that will fit with the one you present publicly. Often times this will mean having interests and habits similar to those of many in the group. The second (and more important) characteristic is a willingness to give a genuine commitment to the well-being of the house.

- By open, honest and yourself. Don't be afraid to talk with people. You'll have to make an impression on people if you like a place. But don't force yourself on people, either.

- Choosing a fraternity is a mutual decision. You won't like every house you see; likewise, not every house is going to like you.

- Don't have much time — use it well. Some houses you are interested in Friday night and Saturday. If you are just getting to

to a place on Sunday, it may not pay much attention to you because it will be concentrating its efforts on the people it has already bid.

- Stay at a place you like for at least a few hours to meet the upperclassmen there. Generally, the only way you will be extended a bid is to meet most if not all of the people at a house. An average of 200 freshmen will visit each house; so you will have to stay around in order to show your interest. By the same token, if you are at a place you don't like, leave. You're wasting your own time.

- Don't get hung up on one house like you do not offer you a bid. Odds are that you probably would not fit in there anyway. Besides, there are still many houses left that you probably would easily fit into well.

- On Friday and Saturday, try to meet as many people as possible at the houses you visit. Spend your time the next day; you have extended bids that you have to keep an eye on.

- Although houses are under- standable to pledge the people they have bid, don't abuse yourself into making a decision before you are ready to do so. Do be realistic by being hard-sell tactics. But when you are ready to pledge, don't wait around.

- Enjoy Rush Week, but don't get caught up in it. Keep track of what you are doing. Be aware of your limits and don't rush around. Good luck!

Frats: enhancing the MIT experience

Milton Rote is the Interfraternity Conference rush chairman for 1977.

To the freshman class:

I hope that you will discover that MIT is an easy place to live at and to be at. One of the biggest decisions that you will have to make when you get here at the end of August/beginning of September is where to live when you are here. You probably have read in the Undergraduate Residence Book that you have a choice between living in a dormitory or in a fraternity. I would like to tell you a little about the MIT fraternities.

A fraternity is a brotherhood, a closely-knit group of individuals with a similar background, interests, or who just get along well together. There are 32 different houses in the fraternity system, so you have a wide assortment to look at. The biggest difference between a fraternity and an Institute house is the people. Since a fraternity is small (average size: 35 people) the members get to know each other well. To anyone away from home, knowing who your friends are can be very important, since MIT starts getting you down. The fraternities in a fraternity are ones that you'll remember well.

To the Editor:

The article in the summer issue of The Tech concerning the proposed bus service to Stop and Shop was quite revealing; however, it contained one major inaccuracy which I would like to bring to your attention. At no time was money appropriated to us by the Undergraduate Association; we never requested funds from that body. Toward the end of the spring semester we applied for funding to the Dean's Office student affairs group (you received a copy of the proposal). After some deliberation they decided not to grant our request for funds, and so we applied to the Dormitory Council for financial backing.

We had the help of Burton House president Phil Kesten we were able to reach a sufficient number of Dormine members over the summer to authorize the necessary funds for initiation of service in the fall.

We are now working on the final stage of preparations so that the bus service can begin as scheduled. We would welcome any further assistance from you in any way. You can contact me at 253-3714 during the day, and 494-8464 in the evening.

John Zuman '78
Bus Service Representative
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