Learning to fit in with the MIT environment (Continued from page 4)

MIT: students who, seeing themselves overcome by the MIT atmosphere, have the self-confidence to leave, either for a period of time sufficient to gain the necessary fortitude to face the Institute again, or to enroll at another school despite the social pressure from those who see it as 'giving up'; and students who have been able to master their 'giving up'... and students who, seeing the incredibly gifted, extremely high grades take an enormous dedication to study. However, if one only takes a plastic drinking straw to the MIT firehouse, he is still going to receive a deep, varied, and meaningful education. Different levels of effort will return different levels of grades, but in almost cases a student will learn a great deal. An individual's devotion to academics should be adjusted in accordance with what returns are sought and in accordance with one's personal, willing dedication to study. By putting out as much effort as is needed for one's personal goals, a student enjoys life more easily and appreciates his academic returns. Students must, in a general sense, look proudly at their academic life is academically, and rightly so, for surely that is the primary reason for coming here. It is crucial that a student define his reason for coming here. It is best to remember, however, that everyone is trying to make friends, and it is just as difficult for the next person. Maintaining at least casual friendships with a lot of people (and with varied kinds of people) can provide necessary pressure valves when the going gets tough.

Freshmen often feel 'down' because, in their new situation, they fear difficulty in making friends. It is best to remember, however, that everyone is trying to make friends, and it is just as difficult for the next person. Maintaining at least casual friendships with a lot of people (and with varied kinds of people) can provide necessary pressure valves when the going gets tough.

One of the most difficult times for freshmen is the first big visit home, comparing notes with high school classmates now attending state schools and living the party life. MIT students must constantly and absolutely remind themselves that they are enrolled at school to get an education, possibly at the expense of some partying.

What is most important, in the final analysis, is to remain happy, and at peace with the MIT environment. Only then can you get the most out of your MIT experience and, despite academic pressure and a seemingly oppressive social environment, grow as an individual. It is a proud moment for a student, after four years at MIT, to look back happily and say, "It's me, not MIT!"

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