By Bob Wasserman

The summer’s finally coming to an end and over 1,000 freshmen and even more upperclassmen are descending on the MIT campus for R/O 1978. So, looking into The Tech’s little crystal ball, we can discover what the next week or a half holds for us.

The Weather: “If you don’t like New England weather,” the saying goes, “stick around until tomorrow.” Well, they say this about most weather, and I think we can say this about what the next week and a half holds for us.

What R/O really stands for, however, is partying. This is particularly obvious when you look at the activities that are going on. This week is an opportunity to see what you know about too much of a good thing, though, and by the end of the week, the next week’s R/O will have been forgotten and you’ll be looking forward to another one.

The Freshman Picnic: The R/O week seems to be an entirely separate social period, at least as far as the freshmen are concerned. All the events are intended for the freshmen, even if they are interested. So, looking into the first semester.

Lookout: It might seem surprising, if predictable, time for the newest inhabitants of MIT, the freshmen. We are already beginning to see the freshmen as “only a hobby,” or wittily remark “I thought I’d teach him to help me with my homework.” It is doubtful, however, that the owner will remark “Lookout!” (or whatever name it) will fit in real well with the social life here.

Whatsoever happens the next week of so, R/O 1978 will turn out to be a surprise, if predictable, time for the newest inhabitants of MIT, the freshmen. Who knows, these freshmen may even have some surprises in store for this charming upperclassmen.

By Dave Doben

Editor’s Note: Dave Doben ’77 is a former member of the Interfraternity Conference (IFC).

To the editor:

The next few times for beginnings and times for endings. The times for endings are going well, when enthusiasm is still high, it will be just a matter of time before the last one is said.

An often asked question is “What is a fraternity looking for in a freshman?”

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

— Be 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 fraternity and if you want to fit in.

— You don’t have much time — use it. The house you are interested on Friday night and Saturday. If you are just getting to a place on Sunday, it may not pay much attention to you because you are not contributing its efforts on the people it has already.

— Stay a place you like for at least a few hours to meet the upperclassmen, 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 have to stay around a while to show your interest. By the same token, if you are at a place you don’t like, leave. You’re only wasting your own time.

— Don’t take it hard if a place you like does not offer you a bid. Odds are that you probably would not fit in there anyway.

— Be open, honest and yourself. Don’t bias your opinions and let people know how you feel.

— Be yourself. If you are your friends can be very important, especially when MIT starts getting you down.

The friends you make in a fraternity (Please turn to page 5)