MIT: overcrowded but worth it

By Bob Wasserman

It had been a hard night for Jim, class of '80, and it was almost 3am when he decided off to sleep. His roomie was not to be roused, though.

He soon began to dream.

"I'll never get this problem done," thought Jim, "I guess I should try to pull over to my TA and see what he can do for me."

Jim walked over to the CAES building and approached the TA, who doubted an "E", the TA asked.

"I can't solve this problem here," Jim answered numbly.

"You're in EEACS and you can't figure this out," the TA growled.

Seeing Jim shake his head negatively, the TA went on, "Well, what are you in? ME? CE? MSE? EEC?"

"Anyway," he continued, "It's as easy as ABC. You just use the SAS theory, i.e., where does the F come in, e.g., in the H01 molecule. QED."

"Huh?" queried Jim.

"Well, anyway, IAP is right around the corner. For the meantime, you may as well enjoy one of the student activities. They might just be the thing you need."

Jim thought, thought, that might be good. Maybe something like football or drama.

"You look interested, Jim," the man observed. "Great!! I'll get you in touch with someone in the ASA right away. There are some really good extra-curriculars, like APO, SCC, TCA, and even MITSFS."

"Huh?" Jim confusedly followed her in and sat down next to the DSA.

"What've you got?" she observed incorrectly, "You want to go to the OFA, any of the IAP, or maybe the JYA program might be just the thing you need."

"Oh, not really. I was an AI student," Jim said. "Well, maybe you should try it out on a PDP or an IBM. Why don't you go over to the computer science right now, or maybe talk it over with the SIPB and use the CSS?

Jim gasped, "I can't figure out all the acronyms, you're giving me the runaround."

"You've really got a serious problem, then," said the TA. "You bet. We here at the CAP empathize with you, Jim. We're trying to help you make the most of your time here. That is, if you like to stay in touch with someone in the ASA right away. There are some really good extra-curriculars, like APO, SCC, TCA, and even MITSFS."

"Jim, I'm lost. I can't follow all the abbreviations, and you still haven't helped me with No. 2.574b."

Jim had been a freshman, he observed, "You want to go to the OFA, any of the IAP, or maybe the JYA program might be just the thing you need."

"But, but, there's just too many of them. I can't follow any conversations around here at all," complained Jim.

"We are at the CAP epitome with you, Jim. We're trying to clarify the meaning of certain letters ourselves. But acronyms are an alphabet soup," replied Jim's friend.

"Wow, I'd love something to eat," replied the much-relieved Jim, "Save me, save me, I just want something simple."

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