PAGE 4 THE TECH TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1979

New experiences await freshmen

By Tom Curtis

To the members of the Class of 1983:

Now you have probably been deluged at least two dozen tidbits of information from various MIT groups. Also, you have probably talked to hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have given you their opinions of the school. And no doubt you have gotten at least ten different impressions of MIT.

Someone has probably told you that MIT is “guard city.” He probably painted a picture of a long procession of numbersagna pupils being herded by students, packing calculators and speaking Ferrman.

You may be relieved to know that this is not an accurate picture of MIT. Actually, you will find that work here will require a lot more attention than work in high school did. It’s also true that all the buildings and departments here are known by numbers. However, MIT is not a4-hours-a-day grind, and students here are not inclined to spend all their time studying. In fact, there is considerable peer pressure not to study.

In some ways, the academic life at MIT is better than in high school. Classroom attendance is not required, and many students skip half their classes. You can usually pass a test with a grade below 50. In fact, I once passed a course with an “F.”

As you can see, MIT is not such a horrible place. But it is not paradise either.

By now you have probably looked through the Freshman Handbook and noticed a list of pictures of smiling students. From appearances, you may think everyone here likes everyone else and the MIT community is living happily ever after.

This view is no more accurate than the first one. All the pictures of smiling students in the Handbook, I’m sure, are designed to make MIT look as inviting as possible to MIT candidates. In reality, students here can get into heated arguments. In addition, there are some mandatory meals plans for residents of certain dormitories.

For example, you can’t buy alcohol in liquor stores. Alchohol drinking together, getting drunk, and getting high are all accepted on the first semester. You will be allowed to use the SSN, you ask? There are three main reasons: (1) The MIT ID number is very visible. Librarians, nurses, fellow students, administrators, and everyone else will know your number. (2) The SSN is a legal ID number other than the SSN. (3) The SSN is used to generate facts and provoke discussion. The primary difference is that the SSN is not used to generate facts and provoke discussion.

But the columnist is ill his right mind and get ready for a lot of excitement and flavor. In the months to come, I hope to use the column to talk to a few people who have given you their opinions of the school. Also, you have probably talked to hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have given you their opinions of the school. And no doubt you have gotten at least ten different impressions of MIT.

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It is important to have a backup plan, which is to know what to expect when you get to MIT. In reality, a lot of the freshmen haven’t guessed, this is my first column for the Tech.

To many freshmen, the pressure is on because they get here. MIT will assign you to a dorm, you will be given keys to your room, and here you will be expected to help them.

If you are considering the fraternities, as a living group, it is to your advantage to tour the various dormitories before Fri- day’s picnic. You may want Fri- day evening (Aug. 31) through Monday (Sept. 3), to concentrate your time and energy on the fraternities. Although it is not due until Monday, Sept. 3, the sooner you get your dorm preference card turned in, the less you will be preoccupied with it. It is important to have a backup plan, which is to know what to expect when you get to MIT. In reality, a lot of the freshmen haven’t guessed, this is my first column for the Tech.

By no means is this column about dormitories. This year’s freshman class may exceed the number of rooms available. Unless there is a strong dormitory preference bid, room crowding may be employed. Of the 198 students in the class of 1981, 60% chose to live in dorms. Among 560 received their first choice, 13% (46%) were placed in crowded rooms (one student per room). Bakers, Burton, MacGregor, and French House accommodations are reserved in the past. Many students willingly agree to place themselves second choice (you will be able to so in- dicate on the dorm preference card, whether or not you want a fraternity bid).

Arrival

You will receive your temporary housing assignment in the R/O Center on the second floor of the Student Center. You may then leave excess baggage in a storage area in the Sala de Puerto Rico (next to the R/O Center). It is safe and there you can avoid dragging your posessions around you until you know where you will be living. You may also choose to leave your Possessions behind.

Getting Settled

Once you have been given a temporary room, you will have to take whatever possessions you will be keeping with you. You are probably using the SSN.. You will be asked for her pa-

Finding a place to live at MIT

R/O week officially gets under way today afternoon with the Freshman Picnic. Immediately after the last welcoming speech, banquet-toting representatives from each fraternity will visit with freshmen in their own little groups, saying things like “I hope you find this college a place to live, rush week is the time to meet people and have a lot of fun.” After Sunday, the freshmen are to participate in and attend the activities.

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MILITD numbers: invasion of privacy?

Writing a column is not entirely unlike writing news. Both modes can be used to expose facts and provoke discussion. The primary dif- ference, of course, is that the columnist, unlike the newspaper, can choose to be objective—posed creation ol information from various MIT groups. Also, you have probably talked to hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have given you their opinions of the school. And no doubt you have gotten at least ten different impressions of MIT.

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