Stephanie Pollack
More than one way to learn

Summer seems like an incongruous time to think about education; actually, it seems like a strange time to think at all. I am spending the summer at MIT, however, and the place reeks of education.

The purpose of attending an educational institution is not to make students forget everything they have experienced before. However, that those who graduate with only this limited type of education should be considered failures. At least three distinct types of education are on hand, taking in study, learning by experience, and learning by meeting.

The former, education, is the most prevalent type of education but the least important. The traditional four-leaf clover and regimentation in the mouth educational process are work for acquiring knowledge, but it's still educational. It's like anything else. Classrooms are for sleeping, eating, watching movies, and occasionally listening to lectures. These activities are approximately equally important in getting educated.

Do not fear for your tuition, though. While education may be scarce in classrooms here, it abound in the MIT community—loosely-knit group encompassing the students, staff, and faculty. It is one of the most interesting and varied groups of people to be found anywhere. While exposure to this melting pot of Nobel Prize laureates and high school computer hackers may not be worth $12,000, it is certainly a valuable experience.

Freshmen are an integral part of this experience. Because freshmen are the least involved in social and academic activities and living groups, many activities would be in serious trouble without the time and enthusiasm of numerous freshmen members. Freshmen also provide a refreshing perspective to living groups populated primarily by cynical or burned-out upperclassmen. The most enthusiastic students at MIT are the freshmen and recent graduates, because they are not as subject to MIT's daily grind.

MIT does not separate freshmen from upperclassmen in living arrangements. This organization of freshmen is obviously useful for freshmen, speeding their adjustment to a new and confusing system. What is often forgotten however, is how helpful it is for upperclassmen to have freshmen who do remember, however, are looking forward to Residence/Orientation and its yearly infusion of enthusiasm, talent, and variety.

V. Michael Bove

Two years ago, when the preliminary report on reconstruction of new undergraduate housing on the west side of campus was being prepared, a strange thing happened. The Institute's usually staid administration, in what must have been a moment of extreme levity, named the document Next House.

Then another strange thing happened. An annual benefit auction emerged after whom to name the place. No one came through with a single large gift to finance construction, and the main contribution of $2 million arrived anonymously. Everyone started calling the new dormitory Next House. A small run of maps was printed bearing the label "Next House #71." A couple of unofficial Name-That-Dorm contests were conducted and suggestions such as Maxwell House and House of the Rising Sun—never mind that it rises on the other side of campus—were put forth. Still, the general consensus was that Next House was the natural name for Never-Thin-New House. It made a logical progression. It was a name that had character. It was silly as hell.

The administration then spoke sharply to anyone who said anything about the new dorm, it's going to be 500 Memorial Drive. At some point, everyone had apparently prevailed and whoever was an ardent believer that Next House business had strung itself by suitable parts of the campus. The prevailing theory was that MIT had learned from Next House and Senate House, the former no longer new and the latter no longer seniors-only, that room assignments would be entirely random, and all efforts directed towards changing them. It is rumored that, even now, certain specialties may yet up late trying to devise novel ways to get us to call New House West Campus.

Privately funded research has shown that the original dormitory name has at most four syllables—just try to find an exception at MIT. By that standard, almost anything is better than "500 Memorial Drive." So call it Next House—MIT has enough numbered buildings and ten with whom to assign names. Besides, perhaps someday your alumni gift will help finance the construction of an O. Henry-Greet-Yet-Another-House.

Don't get bullied into registering

The following remarks are addressed to the 150 young men who have been sent letters recently by the Selective Service System asking them with prosecution for failure to register for the draft. First and most importantly, the Selective Service statistics put the number of nonregistrants at well over 1,000,000 last summer, and the strength in those numbers. Don't believe into registering for the upcoming draft by Selective Service Threats. Your reasons for not registering are as valid as ever. If you think you might object to being called up to go fight in Central (Please turn to page 5)