A guide to improved teaching

MIT is one of the world's foremost research institutes. At MIT, no other university does a student have the opportunity to do original work in so many fields, even as a freshman. It is not surprising that in such an atmosphere most of the professors are more concerned with doing research and publishing papers and less concerned with teaching.

The successful completion of an experiment or other theoretical work is not even surprising that in such an atmosphere most of the professors are more concerned with doing research and publishing papers and less concerned with teaching. The time necessary to stop their courses from being dull or confusing. Time spent on research produces many tangible results; time spent on teaching produces results which are much more intangible.

The lack of excellent lecturers at MIT is not surprising, then: it is not even surprising that there are so many mediocre lecturers here. What is surprising is that the students do not make much of an attempt to improve the situation.

The first and most important step in improving teaching quality would be the publication of a complete Course Evaluation Guide every year. This guide would, among other things, identify the poorer lecturers. The professors who do not realize they were mediocre lecturers might then try to improve.

Time spent on teaching, on the other hand, reduces time spent on research. Professors are often forced to teach courses in very basic areas of their research - areas in which they are not really interested. Students should be required to face are divs, grads, and curfs. More than that is too much.

Now that we've all chuckled at the new Walk/Don't Walk signs, let's clean up our act and make our next hacks ones which we can relate with pride.

Richard L. Jamison, G

feedback

Hacking without offending people

To the Editor:

MIT has traditionally been a hack haven. I take great pride in recounting the famous barbershop pole hack and the Harvard-Yale football game hack (planting small explosives in the football field that could spell out "MIT" at halftime). I know that the Harvard Bridge is 364 Sneaks long. I am proud to say that I was present when Charlie Bruno pushed a piano off Baker House.

I enjoy recalling the cow that appeared one day on top of one of MIT's domes. I am embarrassed, however, at the quality of the recent hack to the Don't Walk sign at 77 Mass Ave.

I enjoy good hacks. However, the good hacks have an important quality in common: they are not offensive. Defacing property in a commonly used public area in an obscene manner is on a level with last year's fraternity incident offensive to some of the gay community. Each was intended to be humorous, but each was insensitive to the rights and integrity of groups of people. I say that the only obsequious which we should be required to face are divs, grads, and curfs. More than that is too much.

To the Editor:

MIT, as the society.

I feel compelled to complain about the antics of East Campus last Sunday morning. All residents of our hallway are well-mannered, law-abiding, and normal. Clearly, we are neither capable of nor condone such behavior. At 2am, we were immersed in our traditional Saturday night study. Our intellectual bliss was shattered by a deafening chorus of an obscene work. Jack Florey described it best: "It was like something from a bad movie. All I wanted was for it to stop."

It was not until twenty minutes later, however, that we were able to return to productive pursuits. When local noise abatement officers arrived on the scene, they conducted a misdirected witch hunt on our hallway which claimed one victim, Jack Florey. This incident indicates a resurgence of those same prurient elements which were displayed in the LSC showing of Ordinary People, which was described in a recent letter to the editor appearing in The Tech. We heartily concur with the author's opinions. Such behavior must cease. It is inconsiderate and out of place in an institute which claims as its goal the advancement of modern society.

Jack Florey
Fifth East, East Campus

March of Dimes

This year devoted to The Tech

In a nutshell!

By the editors

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