VI-A Orientation Lecture

All Course VI and Undesignated sophomores interested in joining the VI-A Program are invited to attend an Orientation Lecture scheduled as follows:

February 8, 1984
3:00 p.m.
Room 34-101

Applications and other material available at this Lecture

Ashdown energy inefficient

To the Editor:

I am about to move out of the Ashdown House Graduate Dormitory. I feel it my duty at this time to disclose to the world the fascinating breakthrough in energy use developed at Ashdown, and now Ashdown is using its technology to help the world situation.

It is, of course, very fitting that the dormitories of MIT should bear full witness to the marvels of modern technology. This is why Ashdown House has a climate control system which can only be fully appreciated by the most knowledgeable of experts; however, I will try in this article to give you a glimpse of its brilliance. You leave your radiator on during the day. You come back in the evening to a room at ninety degrees Farenheit. No problem. Just throw open a window and soon the room has dropped to a comfortable seventy degrees. Then you continue to vary the opening of the window with the setting of the steam valve (this is no easy task since about an eighth of a turn is all that is required to take the radiator from completely off to fully on) until the temperature is maintained at a livable level. Sometimes my roommate might come in after I’m in bed, feel chilly, and turn on the heat. Little does he realize that by doing this he has completely upset the delicate balance I struggled to obtain. I wake up around 3 A.M. in total discomfort. My mouth is parched. My body would be a sweaty mess, but since the room is so dry, my sweat droplets evaporate evaporate before they reach my bottom sheet. I have on no blanket, no top sheet, no pajamas. Isn’t this wonderful: 15 degrees Farenheit outside, the window is open, and I am sweating.

The best part about this whole system is that the steam is absolutely limitless. I mean it. Since October the boiler has not turned off. During this time our bathroom window has never been fully closed (the radiator in the bathroom has no valve.) Other interesting energy use techniques include defrosting meat with a steady stream of hot water which passes through the sink and down the drain. I inquired about this practice and was informed that the microwave was much too slow. This rather extravagant use of energy is particularly touching when one considers that most people now living in Ashdown are from the third world.

At first I thought that the people of Ashdown were just wasting energy. I see now that my misconception was exaggerated by the fact that I grew up in a land (Please turn to page 11)

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Stop by anytime, and I’ll be happy to show you how we put out a newspaper.