The pen is as mighty as the computer terminal

Column/Joseph J. Romm

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To the Editor:

An MIT education seems to require balancing an explosive workload against the often neglected needs for sleeping and eating. However, unlike nearly any other similar schools, MIT enforces its students to step outside the normal bounds of college teaching, to become active participants in learning.

While programs that do this require initiative from the student, their existence helps make the Institute more than just a factory for cranking out that student's career. A well known example of such a program is the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), to match talented freshmen with mentors at most schools of letting undergraduates anywhere near real research.

With ESG's Student Study Group is another, less well known, example. Freshmen may still remember that part of the billboard of paper they received last summer was a call for participation in an alternative to the normal large lecture orientation of most freshman classes. ESG, now in its 15th year, focuses on individual and small group learning.

A freshman at ESG finds himself more fully involved in learning, as well as giving him greater responsibility for his education. A freshman at ESG is able to study in this way the full range of freshman core courses. Many advanced topics are also offered, as well as a range of humanities subjects, which vary from semester to semester with demands and staff availability.

ESG is generally praised for its out- standing technical writer, which is also for learning less abstruse professors and subjects. ESG students accomplish less than they would in the regular curriculum. In reality, quite the opposite is true. Most students in ESG manage to learn new concepts (Please turn to page 9)

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Feedback

ESG is an important educational program

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