SUCCESS MEANS MUCH MORE THAN AN MIT DEGREE

Column/Diana ben-Aaron

Success means much more than an MIT degree

I've complained about a lot of things on these pages, but I've bitched about tuition, frivolous class gifts, ineptual administration, government, bad libraries, worthlessness of degree certificates, suicide, and not today. Today should be a time for celebration, a time for reflection, a time for decision. But not today. Today is the night the Peace Corps is looking for a leader. I'm auditioning by cooking apple pie. (To tide me over until I leave to teach science in French-speaking Africa, Lisa is still following the Grateful Dead.)

Trish is at Harvard Graduate School of Education, "finding out that the world is a very different place and the way we talk about education was right. At MIT they always concentrated on what the society did to you. And then you go to Harvard and they begin talking about why it is that you are doing it." Donald is going to work for a company, and once he has a few years of hard work behind him, he wants to return to Harvard and write a PhD. Donald does not consider it "serious" enough to have his degree from MIT. It is just something to tide him over until he gets his PhD. And I would like to have more time to work on a few more things in the meantime.

They are not the only ones who admit to being upset by MIT. Jennifer, for example,commented on her parent's house in aBoston suburb for four years - a serious handicapped here, and, an all-day review session with friends or an all-night room of the other. He was changing his decision between passing and failing a course.

Today's graduates, like others past and future, will be bombarded by a veritable parade of platitudes, an onslaught of observations and an aggrandizement of advice. If I were the one to power, I would give one deep thought this day, perhaps the best one concerns the philosophy of the technology so many of today's graduates will study, create and use.

Technology is neither good nor bad, a tool for the human beings, allowing people to accomplish tasks more efficiently or comfortably. It is our responsibility to use technology to improve the quality of life for everyone, not just a select few. We must consider the environmental impact, ethical implications, and the potential consequences of our actions.

In the fall I will attend the University of California at Berkeley. The fact that I am about to leave MIT as one of the best engineering schools in the country, to experience the rich diversity of a different culture, is both exciting and daunting. I will miss my roommates, my professors, and the camaraderie that MIT has fostered in me.

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