Outing Club Offers Students Chance to See Nature

By Kathy Sun

As an alternative to the long days spent at MIT, the Owing Club, operated by students and alumni, takes every opportunity to help students escape problem sets by organizing various activities that bring them closer to nature.

8.01L Will Continue into IAP

8.01L, from Page 1

the fall, and why or why not. It also asked for comments and suggestions.

"On the whole, current 8.01 students like the idea of being given the chance to develop problem-solving skills," said Margaret S. Enders, an associate dean in the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office who helped organize the course.

"Not 8.01 slow!"

Administrators and faculty involved with 8.01L emphasized that it is equivalent to the other forms of 8.01, and that students who have taken it will be as prepared for further work as other members of their class.

"We view the course as fully equivalent—it's not easier or more difficult, it just has a different ramp-up period," said Rappaport, who will teach a recitation section of 8.01L. The course covers the same material as 8.01, and is offered to students who did not do well on the test also did not do well in physics.

"More students are coming in less well-prepared, and as a result, more are failing, especially with the change from D-level passing to C-level passing. No one is happy about that," Enders said.

"Last year's combined D and F fail rate [in 8.01] was 18 percent, and it has been steadily heavier than in math or chemistry," said Travis R. Merritt, an associate dean in the Sloan.

The idea for 8.01L came "to some extent... from the Institute's colloquium on teaching within a research university," Rappaport said. Several meetings with academic officers in other departments also contributed to the course's development, he said.

Results of the math diagnostic test administered to freshmen each fall also spurred the creation of 8.01L, Rappaport said. Examinations of these results indicated that students who did not do well on the test also did not do well in physics.

"More students are coming in less well-prepared, and as a result, more are failing, especially with the change from D-level passing to C-level passing. No one is happy about that," Enders said.

"Last year's combined D and F fail rate [in 8.01] was 18 percent, and it has been steadily heavier than in math or chemistry," said Travis R. Merritt, an associate dean in the Sloan.

The course is not likely to threaten the current structure of IAP, Merritt said. Extending the 8.01L idea to other parts of the core curriculum "could have serious ramifications in keeping students on campus for IAP. I would definitely think twice before extending this to the rest of the core and turning IAP into the first semester's back porch," he said. "I don't think it's in the cards."

The concept of the original 8.01L, offered as a winter school, held during Independent Activities Period. About 30 students, faculty, and alumii enrolled this past January. Students learned about the skills necessary for cross-country skiing, how to hike in harsh weather with snowshoes, and other winter sports needs. "Once a week, they did lectures which included winter hiking and winter skiing," which then helped on weekend trips, said Abraham D. Stroock '90.

Each year, MITOC also hosts a fall and spring circus in which a large group of people head out to the mountains for a long weekend and camp-out. This year's spring circus will be held at Camelot, a cabin near Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Trips have traditionally been gone to places such as Arcadia National Park and Baxter State Park, both in Maine, as well as numerous stays in the backwoods of New Hampshire. The club welcomes all students, especially freshmen, to join in. Trips are normally organized by popular request, and the ice-climbing season looks to be second for a few more weeks, club members say.

Jonathan Richmond PhD '91, a member of MITOC's board of directors, said, "In one weekend, the club taught many lessons of community which are so often lacking at MIT, and built relationships of friendship and respect."

The Tech News Faxline
258-8226
Just the fax.

FREE MOVIE POSTERS

until he met a man
who couldn't care more.

PATRICK SWAYZE

CITY OF JOY

ARNAU ARIFFOL

THE TECH NEWS FAXLINE

FREE SNEAK PREVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
8:00 PM
PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
MIT OR WELLESLEY ID REQUIRED
PRESENTED BY
MIT Lecture Series Committee