Advice on Surviving from a Seasoned Upperclassman

By Matthew H. Hersh

Welcome, freshman. It seems that around this time everyone on campus will be giving you advice about MIT, and most of it will either be stupidly sexual or filterhead-down, wishy-washy, non-committal, R/O-safe, bland, true, and simplistic. Freshmen hear "be yourself" and "don't rape anybody" a little too much. I'd like to help, so instead of writing about politics and diplomacy and nuclear strategy like I usually do in this column, I'm going to write something for freshmen, something that doesn't have the word "condom" in it. Here's what I have learned about MIT in the past few years — here's the advice that I would give:

- Stay up all night. Sleep late. Try to attend more classes than you punt. Change majors...twice. Got Advanced Placement credit? Use it. Fail while you can. Register for something you like to do and do it. Find a UROP... a good UROP. Find something new to do and try it. If it hurts when you do it, then stop doing it and consult a physician.

- Do you like pizza? Then take 18.012. Do you need sleep? Then take 24.01. Remember, everyone at MIT was a Course VI major at some time or another.


- Always hand in your problem sets. Don't trust your advisor. Get to know administrative assistants. Beg your TA.

- Drink lots of orange juice. Don't eat at Lolli's. Learn how to use chopsticks. If you eat pizza every night you will hate it by November. Froso's makes good burgers.

- Bath every day. Wash your clothes. Keep your finger out of your nose; you don't know where that finger's been. Don't grow a beard — you'll look like an idiot.

- An average human being can remain awake for 65 hours without passing consciousness or hallucinating. Never walk within 135 feet of the MIT Nuclear Reactor, no matter how much money they offer you.

- Find a UROP... a good UROP. Find something you like to do and do it. Find something new to do and try it. If it hurts when you do it, then stop doing it and consult a physician.

- Find someone you love and love them. Can't find anyone to love? Then find someone you hate and write about them.

- No one cares where you live. Rush and you will hate it by November. Froso's makes good burgers.

- You're smarter than you think. You're lazier than you think. Never, ever, ever

- Be happy. If you're not happy, then get happy.

- Nothing matters.

- Everything matters.

- You matter.

- Don't read the Thistle.

Well there it is, the collected wisdom, of one world weary upperclassman. You should be commended for finishing this column.

Because you read The Tech, you are superior to your friends.

And remember, if rush is boring you, or if you are sweating profusely, then just come up to the air-conditioned offices of The Tech and watch us make a newspaper every day. We won't pretend to like you, and we won't give you free food — we'll just act like real MIT students.

---

LETTERS POLICY

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairmain, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors and opinion editors. Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to techeditora@mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.