Cheating a serious problem?

One of the primary questions the report sought to address was how serious the problem of cheating was and whether this was an issue specific to MIT.

In recent years, people have expressed concern about an increase in cheating on campus, the report said. However, it indicated that survey results do not support this claim.

None of the groups surveyed undergraduates, faculty, and graduate student teaching assistants — suggested that there was any evidence of a cheating crisis at MIT or that cheating had increased. In addition, the report said that no group felt that there was more cheating at MIT than elsewhere.

Despite these findings, the report said that half of all respondents described themselves as "trivial offense or not cheating at all."

The report explained that students seem to have a "strong belief that cheating, once caught, is discovered and that the only way to avoid detection is to be clever and go undetected." The report indicated that students cheat more to keep from being labelled as the student who is "smart but not clever." Students with grade point averages in the 4.0 range or higher, the report found, "are far more likely to cheat than students with grade point averages in the 3.0 range."

Students are advised to apply early. Remaining admission is on a rolling basis. Early admission decisions will be made March 15, 1994.