Editorial

Impeach Peter Berke

Recent actions on the part of Undergraduate Association President Peter Berke have led us to the conclusion that he has not accepted the responsibilities of his office and should therefore be impeached and removed from office by the undergraduate student body.

The latest of Berke's long string of unpresidential initiatives consisted of his sending a letter to several members of the Board of Directors of The Tech appointing them to the heroic, but nonexistent "General Assembly executive committee" in what was clearly a face-saving response to a serious editorial in last Tuesday's issue.

By refusing to call the General Assembly together, Berke has revealed his disdain for student governance and responsible participation of representatives of the student body in the decision-making process on campus. His letter to The Tech indicates a lack of respect for the student body.

Berke is in our opinion guilty of the following actions and inactions which taken together constitute a strong case for his impeachment:

- He has refused to convene the General Assembly.
- He has consistently refused to accept his role as spokesman for the undergraduate students.
- He was not in attendance at the last faculty meeting, at which the controversial drop date proposal was discussed, even though the Undergraduate Association President is the only undergraduate automatically allowed to speak at faculty meetings. In addition, Berke made only weak and undefined statements that he 'informed' the student body, before going to state this at the last day's Writing Program debate.

- He has displayed a condescending and unresponsive attitude towards the members of the student body, going so far as to state publicly in the Thursday that students are no longer welcome to comment to him concerning the Dean's office and the status of the undergraduates.

Under the procedures outlined in Article V, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the Executive Committee of the U-UA, the president should be removed by a two-thirds vote in favor of impeachment, in a referendum held upon petition of 20 percent of the undergraduates.

We believe that those who value effective student government at MIT should begin this process immediately.

Peter Berke's letter to members of The Tech Board

Dr. Kent, President, William Lamont, Vice President, Dennis P. Allston, Student Body President, and I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed the Undergraduate Student Government to be responsible for the planning and execution of an event to be held on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm, in celebration of the School's accomplishments this year. The event will be held at the freshman and sophomore student center.

I am also pleased to inform you that a program will be held on Friday, December 18, at 7:00 pm, in the Union, for the purpose of celebrating the School's accomplishments this year. The program will feature a performance by the School's orchestra, as well as a speech by President William Lamont.

I hope you are able to attend these events and that they will be a success.

Sincerely,

Peter Berke
President, Undergraduate Association

Final report on grading due Dec. 21

By Jededia Hollander

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading is due to be presented at the Dec. 21 faculty meeting, and is the latest of Berke's long string of un-preservation initiatives, with a special emphasis on the last one.

The committee's proposals are expected to indicate the percentage of students in a course that received grade X. This information will be added to the student's grade on his transcripts for each course he takes.

The room: Student Committee on Educational Policy poll asked student opinion of the addition of this type of information to their records.

The proposal would allow professors to add to the letter grade of part of the class by providing for letters of commendation to be attached to their transcripts. These letters would give extra recognition to outstanding work or explain special circumstances.

According to Grevtak's statements at the last faculty meeting, the grading committee's final report will be submitted to the faculty meeting on December 18. The drop date proposal will also be voted upon at that meeting, making action on the report highly unlikely. Grevtak indicated that discussion of the proposed changes to the grading system would continue into the February faculty meeting.

Green Bldg. roof: attainable?

By Michael Heaney

The green Building has been a source of fascination to many MIT students for years. Attempts to gain entrance to the roof have been made almost every night. It was one night last week that this reporter was taken on a tour of the roof by a Campus Patrol sergeant from the night shift. We proceeded through the tunnel from Building 56 (the Green Building's lock cylinders had broken off, master keys in them), via the elevator to the 18th floor, and then took the stairs to the roof.

An elevator runs from the 18th floor to the roof, operated by keys and alarmed much like the doors. A notice on the wall reads: "This elevator is controlled by a timer and operates only on weekdays. After 5 pm and on weekends it is inaccessible by any means."

The door at the top of the stairwell is sealed shut from the outside, with no keyholes or doors behind the inside.

According to Sergeant Molinare of the Campus Patrol, there have been major security problems with the alarm system. Within 30 seconds to two minutes, an alarm sounding, the officer would be able to reach the roof in time. An emergency did occur.

It is supposedly the challenge of getting to the roof that attracts so many students. The route through the tunnels, elevators and stairwells is not known to everyone. The door at the 20th floor is usually locked, with a warning against entrance by unauthorized persons printed on the door. Several yards beyond this door is a similar door that is not locked.

Both doors are protected by an electric breaker alarm which triggers a warning at the Campus Patrol headquarters on the second floor of the duPont-Greytak Gymnasium building. It is supposed to get to the roof from the 19th floor, which contains Physical Plant equipment, but this door is locked and equipped with an alarm.

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- You’ll notice we’ve left it a little vague. Since the people we’re after are liable to be out there exploring the far reaches of software, we don’t want the job descriptions to be too narrowly conventional.
- Our present staff—of which we’re very proud—came to us by some pretty diverse routes. They came out of nuclear engineering, mathematics, physics and assorted other fields. About all they had in common was a superior intelligence and a fascination with the computer.
- If you think you might be one of us, arrange an interview while we’re on your campus.

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Hacks flourish at Caltech
By Kenneth Hamilton

By Kenneth Hamilton

Do we connect our computer at the Caltech campus? and Technology (Caltech) manage to
raise a semblance of vanity? One release from the pressure of academics is Senior Ditch Day. This
will occur sometime in the third quarter of
the academic year. Senior Ditch Day is Caltech's way to celebrate the end of the academic year.
Students prepare to 'restack' a senior's room during Senior Ditch Day at Caltech. The entrance is
blocked with blocks of ice and the Pashenski campus finds un-
retain a semblance of sanity? One
gaps are filled with water (the resident was a deep-sea diver).
The entrance to seniors' rooms on Sat., Dec. 10, 1977.

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By Steve Kirsch

"Wha, after almost 60 years, did the staff of Tech Engineering News (TEN) solve? Because nobody. Including ourselves, cared about our magazine. It seems we did." When 60 people care about a magazine that should have the same popular appeal that Film or the Boston Globe or the National Geographic magazine has, something is wrong. This is not the fault of the people, but the fault of the magazine. Ten people never heard of TEN.

One professor who has been here a long time said, "I don't remember TEN. I think it was for students only." Another professor who came here as an undergraduate in 1956 said, "I knew the name. I'm sure I've read copies that appeared on my desk." I don't remember paying for any student publications other than Fiddoes and the Tech. One grad student who has been here seven years said he never heard of TEN.

That many people never heard of TEN is not surprising—even during TEN’s prosperous years in the 50s and 60s. About 1,000 copies of each issue were printed. And only about 300 of those were sold to a dozen librarians. Library subscriptions with TEN regularly sold for $10.00.

The situation worsened during the 70s. In 1970 and ‘71, and TEN lost much of its advertising base and was forced, of its own free will, to price it at 75c. Although quality and staff interest remained high (full color front and back cover, 6 pages, 50 people staff, the magazine could not be sustained. Of the 1,000 copies printed, only about 300 were sold in November 1970 issue. Only 45 were sold to other than 200 subscribers.

In 1973, TEN, knowing what was to be the new “From the Editor’s Desk,” worked out its ten-year plan that included a change of editor-in-chief. The new editor-in-chief was to be "TEN’s meager over-the-counter publication." The issue was to be sold to other than the 200 copies printed in the 30-page issue. The magazine was not be sustained. Of the 1,000 copies printed, only about 300 were sold in November 1970 issue. Only 45 were sold to other than 200 subscribers.

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The California Tech, Caltech's student newspaper, reported last year's Ditch Day produced an impressive,"Tych recalled, "but his claim to fame was that he was an incredible sleuth. His room was in complete chaos all year long. Once a group broke through his stack, they spent about two hours cleaning up the place till it was spotless -- I'm not sure if he ever found anything again."

"Of course if a group of undergraduates succeeds in breaking into a senior's room, they may be distracted by a bribe. A popular bribe that the seniors leave is beer or wine, in the hope that the intruders will be too far gone to restack the room properly if the bribe is accepted."

"Among the other celebrated stacks include Paul Schrier's "Society" stack. Paul is currently a graduate student in Computer Science at MIT. His stack required the undergrads to whistle his way into his room. After they had desperately struggled in vain for three days, armed with everything from accordions to flutes, Paul sauntered into the house and whistled his way into his room within a few minutes."

A restack is mandated if the undergraduates succeed in breaking through a senior's stack. A restack is any creative mania inflicted upon a senior's room on Ditch Day. Teich commented that his first experience at Caltech after he had arrived on campus was watching a winch beam, breaking the circuit, and fruit flies massed together atop the keyhole. Eventually the fruit flies were driven from the room by some trained fruit flies. The fruit flies were then flown through a senior's stack. A "Murphy's stack wasn't very spotless -- I'm not sure if he ever found anything again."

"I'm not sure if he ever found anything again."

A Caltech undergraduatemanoit be a surprise for an unfortunate senior. (Photo from The Big T, 1976.)

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Brattle Theatre

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

JAMES PERRY

WEN." OR "WHAT THE DOWN LOW "

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

LUCIUS ANTONIO

"THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST "

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

WOMEN IN LOVE

CINEMA I

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

WOMEN IN LOVE

CINEMA II

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

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HAVEN YOU VISITED THE PREMIER LATELY?
Queen concert a mediocre effort at best

By David Shaw

On November 12, the rapt audience in Boston Garden rocked to the sound of Queen in concert. It took very little to please the largely high-school-aged crowd, and Queen complied by putting on a mediocre effort.

The concert opened with a song from the new album, "We Will Rock You," which was followed by "Brighton Rock." These two songs had most people out of their seats; most of them would stay that way for the rest of the show. Lead vocalist Freddie Mercury told the audience to "keep up the good mood" and introduced the next group of songs as a "pastiche" of some of their older tunes: "Death on Two Legs," "Killer Queen," and "Lover Boy." The last, "I'm In Love With My Car," which is usually sung by drummer Roger Taylor, was not sung by any member of the band but instead vocals were provided by a pre-recorded tape. The tape was used again in the middle of "Bohemian Rhapsody." While the band left the stage, Mercury announced that the group would attempt some songs that they had never performed on stage before. His song "Love of My Life" to the accompaniment of Brian May's solo acoustic guitar, then the whole group invited the house to sing along to an acoustic version of "39." After hearing these numbers, one can easily conclude why they had never been performed live — they don't quite work.

Queen's latest concert at the Boston Garden was not as good as it should have been. (Photo by A. David Boosun)

Semi-Tough is not about football

Semi-Tough, a United Artists release, directed by Michael Ritchie, is based on Dan Jenkins' classic novel of the same title. It stars are football players and they are not a corned about football. The film, directed by Michael Ritchie, and Jill Clayburgh, produced by Jane Bookman (Jill Clayburgh). Barbara Jane's father and their involvement in the current consciousness movement. The major purpose of the film is to show the silliness of the mass attempt to find instant answers to life's problems. Even if the film turns, someone is buying the praise of his "enemies," be it a pyramid power or "magnetic rats" which consists mainly of crawling around on one's hands and knees trying to find oneself. Big Ed Bookman (Robert Preston). Barbara Jane's father and unscrupulous Texas owner of the team, has even gone so far as to install miniature Doom in his office and cut the legs off of his desk to facilitate his practice of "mammals." That Billy Clyde and Bar-

HUT. barnes, the most down to earth characters of the film, find such gimmicks unnecessary, is a good indication of the opinion of Walter Bernstein's screenplay on the subject.

Reynolds, Clayburgh, and Kristofferson all fill their roles well with Clayburgh especially standing out. It is impossible not to like the fun-loving trio. Sometimes, Jenkins' characterization is a bit thick, but that is the script's fault, not his.

If Semi-Tough seems to have a lack of the same atmosphere, it is due to the inclusion of the football sequences. It seems that the producers wanted to make a film about life in the late seventies, but were forced by the general framework of the novel to throw in few football scenes here and there. As a result these scenes are meaningless and they detract seriously from the flow of the film.

The band returned to do a few encore numbers, including the schmaltzy "We Are the Champions" from the new album. As an extra "bonus," they paid tribute to Elvis Presley, leading the screaming crowd in a chorale of "Jailhouse Rock." Hopefully, this will not continue as a trend in concerts. As Mercury took his final bow, he announced, "It's been a pleasure doing business with you all."

And a poor business it was. Technically, the concert was marred by poor sound quality, and awful lighting work from the spotlight crew. The group's choice of songs was also poor, favoring the newer, campier Mercury-authored tunes instead of the tighter solid rockers. After the concert had ended, someone in the audience remarked: "Queen's hard rock days are gone.

One fact that should be accounted for is that Boston was only the second stop on Queen's U.S. tour, and they might have been testing new material on the audience. Hopefully, Queen will tighten up their act and give other cities a show better reflecting their musical ability.

The Tech's movie rating scale: excellent good fair poor the absolute pits

To find out, stop by the Career Planning and Placement Office (12-176) anytime between 2:30 and 4:30 pm on Monday, Dec. 5.

Professor Harvey Brooks from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University will meet with students who are interested in a career in public service. All majors are welcome to attend. (Sherry will be served.)

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Photos by Gordon Haff
Rink opens after long delay

By Helen Miyasaki

A year ago, on extensive repairs on the refrigeration system, the MIT Ice Rink was frozen and ready to use on November 13. This year, however, the rink's opening has been delayed for over two weeks because of the unusually warm weather we have had recently. The rink was originally built in 1955 as a temporary structure with an expected lifespan of approximately ten years. A new indoor ice rink was included in Phase 1 of the new athletic facility but construction on this structure cannot begin until enough money is contributed for the beginning of Phase 1.

Each year the construction of a new rink is delayed. MIT spends more than $1,000,000 in repairs for the old rink. The pipes that freeze the ice are connected to the heating system of Kresge Auditorium and have long been known to have an amount of refrigeration required. The pipes would have to be replaced and the system could not take any moisture and ice, so it is required to be updated once a year. The new rink is delayed for over two weeks because of the unusually warm weather we have had recently.

In addition, the ice is connected to the old rink. The pipes that freeze the ice go.

Fencing places 5th

By David Castanoe

(Editors note: David Canon is the coach of the women's fencing team.)

For the second straight year, the MIT women's fencing team participated in the EIAW small college championships held on November 18 and 19 at SUNY-Binghamton. This year's tournament field was enlarged to 16 teams of much stronger caliber; MIT, the defending champion, was seeded fifth, and last year's runner-up Mansfield State was not selected for the tournament.

The tournament was a three-way meet with an expected lifespan of approximately ten years. A new indoor ice rink was included in Phase 1 of the new athletic facility but construction on this structure cannot begin until enough money is contributed for the beginning of Phase 1.

Each year the construction of a new rink is delayed. MIT spends more than $1,000,000 in repairs for the old rink. The pipes that freeze the ice are connected to the heating system of Kresge Auditorium and have long been known to have an amount of refrigeration required. The pipes would have to be replaced and the system could not take any moisture and ice, so it is required to be updated once a year. The new rink is delayed for over two weeks because of the unusually warm weather we have had recently.

In addition, the ice is connected to the old rink. The pipes that freeze the ice go.

Fencing places 5th

By David Castanoe

(Editors note: David Canon is the coach of the women's fencing team.)

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