Editorial

AND NOW OLEO

There comes a time when the most well meaning heart of benevolence slips up and takes a shot of stimulants to restore its energies. We take the liberty of placing the Institute dining authorities in the role of the beast of burden—which they will not mind, we assu- me—and we venture to suggest that it is time for that stimulant.

Complaints about the quality of food in Walker Memorial are too various, but they decreased last term as quality of food and service improved considerably. However this term the situation has worsened noticeably.

The decision to substitute de-margarine butter in all Institute dining halls is the most recent source of dissatisfaction. It is asserted that the cost of providing meals has, since last term, risen to such an extent that expenses had to be cut somewhere as not to have to increase prices of meals.

We appreciate these difficulties. However we question the timeliness and the common sense of the solution. The Institute dining authorities are struggling to popularise the common meals systems at the Institute. Yet when it comes to making a decision between several available ways of cutting costs, they choose one which is psychologically the most acceptable.

This is the major complaint. It is in a realm which indicates state roles posting as fresh ones; prepared dishes lying on the serving counter at noon-hour rushes, cold by the time they are served; remarkably little initiative in the introduction of new items or on increasing tidiness; no orderliness—so far as we know—of substituting sandwichs for a hot meal at lunch on the commons systems; and, finally, a conspicuous decrease in the size of portions.

We call these complaints, voiced in many quarters, to the attention of the dining authorities. There is still an attempt to cut corners from their competence, which is considerable. We are also fully aware of the difficulty which they have to face, but we feel none the less that the existing defects can be fairly easily remedied: first, by spending a little more on the quality of food; secondly, by following the suggestions made regarding the size of portions.

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LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: OUTCOME AND IMPORT

Why should the elaborate staging of a Student Congress Conference have been required to establish the common recognition of the need for leadership? The need should have been obvious.

On the level of student activities and student government, does not student autonomy stem from the ability of students, to govern themselves effectively? The burden of proof seems to rest with the self-adjudged leaders of men who would be at the helm.

The techniques of leadership which are related to student government were a fine bill of fare for those at Swampscott. Per- haps, when the newly acquired spirit has divorced itself from the climate of the discussion panel, we will realize of student government bringing the responsibility of all things to this finality, to its students, its faculty, and its alumni. Only by such realization and its attaining self-satisfaction can student government ever hope to maintain its own, despite the most optimistic conjectures.

The fact of the Leadership Conference has evinced, for stu- dents the reality of the effort of self-governance. It is only through such a realization of the role of the student government which the Institute holds Student Government. It is only through such a realization that Student Government can be expected to carry out the tasks expected of it. It is to be hoped, also, that the things which those who attended the conference learned will help in fostering a more effective, and better way of justifying its existence in the eyes of the student body.

The Leadership Conference has brought forth the spark of realization of mutual responsibility; it will have served well if it has also preserved the allegiance of the few present to work for the common good.