The Tog Found bell Department

Relegated to the comparative isolation of the Student Activities building, the Athletic Department is perhaps the most ignored division of the Institute. In recent years, athletic projects have always been second to last in the priority of projects by some of these by-passed suggestions include a new gymnasium, a portable basketball court, and an ice hockey rink.

At this time last year, the portable basketball court in use at the Boston Arena was out of order, and the Athletic Department was assured that the Institute would do all that was in its power to obtain it. The court, however, was never purchased, and the basketball team once more played in cramped, outmoded Walker Memorial. Now there is some hope that a court can be obtained and placed in Rockwell Cage in time for the next season.

At the insistence of Ivan J. Geiger, Director of Athletics, plans for a new skating rink, to be built behind the present cage, were included in the design of the Xerox Auditorium. Sufficient machinery was included in the plans for the air-conditioning system to freeze the ice. At the beginning of the year, plans called for the new rink to be completed by next fall. Due to construction difficulties and lack of funds, the project has been indefinitely delayed. Because of this, the hockey team will continue to practice in Lynn in the early morning hours, and there will be no conveniences for the many skating enthusiasts at the Institute.

Recently, Professor Geiger has become one of the most ignored individuals at the Institute. He is at present an important figure in national intercollegiate and amateur athletics, his duties including Co-Chairman of the Olympic Fund raising Committee. In his position, he entertains in his office many important visitors during the course of the year. A lawyer who has visited Professor Geiger's office on the last but one occasion can not conveniently compare with other offices in the school. Located as it is, in the corner of Building 18, it is out-of-the-way location. Also, the office is in poor condition; there is no phone and no real ceiling. For the past five years, the Institute has been promising to remedy this situation. The office has even been measured and excepted, yet nothing has been done. Certainly such an important figure as Professor Geiger, who is the driving force behind all athletics at the Institute, deserves better treatment than this.

In the present expansion program, the new Physical Sciences building, the first, followed by a Student Union building and new dormitories, as well as the main and present, but never constructed gymnasium. In its haste to give the students every advantage, both in regard to classroom and laboratory facilities, and to living accommodations, the Institute should not forget that every student requires a certain amount of recreation as well.

Obviously the Institute does not have to throw away, but certainly cannot at least in condition with other facets of Institute life. It seems to have been the policy in the past to delegate athletics to a secondary position. Consequently, numerous Athletic Department projects have been reasonably high on the priority list with nothing constructive being accomplished.

Certainly, the Institute can justify most of the apparent interest in athletics, but these projects which deservedly rank before a new hockey rink or basketball court. However, this continual forcing of athletic construction or repair into the background could develop into one of the most significant and most costly mistakes. Unless some measures are taken to alleviate some of the hardships which the Athletic Department must bear, the entire system may well collapse leaving MIT with no clearly defined athletic program whatsoever.

Editorial