EDITORIAL

Tennis Courts

West Campus is blessed this week with the opening of six broad new tennis courts and the expectation that an equal number will open shortly. Judging by the amount of work that has been put into them since last June and the pleasing effect they produce when finished, these courts are undoubtedly the finest money can buy. As facilities for the proper playing of tennis they ought to be unbeatable. The Institute has again tried to demonstrate, in a characteristic way, that nothing is too good for its students.

Yet in this very picture there is room for one small objection, one small fact on which to speculate. In order to alleviate the chore of constant re-tarring and repairing that was necessary with the old West Campus courts, it was decided to require wearing of white-soled tennis shoes by all users. Now this is only right, and is certainly very little to ask. Issue is taken here, however, with the meaning of this small rule. For who is to say that the beauty of these courts is necessarily impaired if your shoes are black or green or white? In that case, how do we define the beauty of these new courts? A beauty that is dependent upon your choice of footwear is not something that can ever be called fine or pleasing. These are courts for tennis, tennis courts. They are not for the private enjoyment of the foot, nor for the idle speculation of the owner of fine shoes.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that courts of this sort are in use at the present time. And in the interest of efficiency and maybe due to a desire to build facades and Potemkin Villages around the real life of this place, we can imagine that these courts may yet become as important as the student dormitories and public highways. One by one, however, use of such things has been possible only under increasingly oppressive regulations. And in the process, responsibility has become less and less personal to the student, and more and more something he surrenders, willingly or not, to the Institute which protects him from himself. Where does the blame lie? It lies both on the student and on the Administration. On the student because he does not face the consequences of his more juvenile escapades. And on the Administration because, in the interest of efficiency and maybe due to a desire to build facades and Potemkin Villages around the real life of this place, it will tolerate only occasionally the give-and-take among individuals and groups that should make the much trumpeted "MIT Community" something more than a name.

Aftran hours

Despite the evidence in Building 2, the 5:15 Club Acquaintance Dance is a real live affair. Past experience with these gems of get-togethers indicates that the Tech man who enjoys beer, women and song should not fail to drop down to the Willie subterranean rooms tonight. The program includes a band for the hearty to dance to and Zangello for everyone to laugh with. One back, man.

All you people who like to wrestle, Sargent College is holding an Informal Dance this Saturday. Six-bits for this affair at the college on Everett St. in Cambridge; 8:30 to 12:00.

And then there's the Annual Bakers House Acquaintance Dance this Friday which is always a raising success every other year, and this is the year. Not only do they have Freddy Guerra's Band but they have hundreds of girls including Betty Jo Baxter. One dollar if you live in Baker dormitory rooms, and public highways. One by one, how- ever, use of such things has been possible only under increasingly oppressive regulations. And in the process, responsibility has become less and less personal to the student, and more and more something he surrenders, willingly or not, to the Institute which protects him from himself. Where does the blame lie? It lies both on the student and on the Administration. On the student because he does not face the consequences of his more juvenile escapades. And on the Administration because, in the interest of efficiency and maybe due to a desire to build facades and Potemkin Villages around the real life of this place, it will tolerate only occasionally the give-and-take among individuals and groups that should make the much trumpeted "MIT Community" something more than a name.

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