Making The Grade

Opponents fear that the general level of undergraduate scholarship would decline under a pass-fail system because too many students would not properly pursue through any program which did not reward thorough understanding with a distinguishing grade.

We hope that the CEP will find that the advantages of at least a limited pass-fail system outweigh the disadvantages. In our view, a system similar to Princeton's, which would assign courses taken in excess of a normal term load to be taken on a pass-fail basis, is the most attractive. Such a program would have the obvious advantage of encouraging undergraduates to take difficult but rewarding courses outside their major without endangering their precious curriculums.

In any event, a university with the academic status of the Institute certainly can't afford to ignore the possible benefits of pass-fail programs in at least some undergraduate areas of study. The serious attention of the CEP to be focused on this topic is long overdue.

Letters to The Tech

Small but good

To the Editor:

In a recent issue of the Tech, you gave excerpts from the Register's Report stating concretely that the Psychology Department is still the smallest at the Institute in terms of faculty and staff members. However, the number of students who cite you may need some qualification: your article states that there are only 15 psychology graduates and no undergraduates. This is true enough; there are 26 graduate students, but only three are undergraduates, besides which there are many graduate students who might take more undergraduates than we would have been able to handle.

Hans-Lukas Temmerman

Rab-rab team

To the Editor:

The editorial of November 1 concerning football at MIT seems to conflict with, rather than express, the sentiments of many MIT students. At the Institute we do encourage sports for participation and recreation rather than winning games and glory, but this is all the more reason for MIT to have an intercollegiate football team.

Buschlast team

To the Editor:

As a psychology major, I found the postscript in the November 1 editorial on football at MIT very interesting. I was particularly concerned to learn that the state of the Institute's football team seems to be worse than that of its basketball team. It seems to me that the Institute's football team is not doing as well as it should be doing, and that the team is not as competitive as it should be. I believe that the Institute's football team could do better if it had more support from the student body.

Rich Roman

111. In Time magazine's article the section of some of the big names at two of MIT and Caltech graduate schools, including Richard Feynman and Murray Gell-Mann as outstanding representatives of Caltech, however, they neglected to mention two importantCALTECH graduates, Feynman in '39, Gell-Mann in '51, of Tech.

We would like to correct the impression that Tim's gave which says that one-fifth drop-out of Tech. Actually, less than 2% over four years leave for reasons of grades. The remainder do so for personal reasons unrelated to cumulus.

12. Pending Rifles, an activity devoted to Army practices, is being dissolved. The group felt that, because N.Y. Rich Rosn '70, the head of the study predicts that most outstanding colleges have instituted a most serious and prolonged evaluation.

We hope that the CEP will find that the Psychology Department gives such a good account of itself that the Psychology Department at MIT, at least in terms of scholarship, will not be able to do anything about it. Proponents of such pass-fail systems feel that they allow students to pursue their academic interests fully by removing the requirement that students maintain a minimum grade point average in order to graduate. This means that students can choose to focus on courses that are important to them, rather than being forced to take courses that are not.