Letters to The Tech

To the Editor:

Although a graduate student and an outside observer to the present DAP election, I must admit that it was rather shaken and disturbed by the method of reporting which The Tech was using in its article purporting to show the positions of the DAP candidates. Particularly, in the case of Mr. George Phillips, you took phrases out of context and attributed to him con- tentions that he did not make and does not believe. Mr. Phillips does have some positive suggestions which ought to be acted upon. Although I do not agree with all of his suggestions, I do believe that many people would feel he had a chance to be heard. This article was rather than what your reporter said.

The Tech has a near monopoly on news about the campus, and should exercise great restraint in its presentation of the news. It must avoid slant simply because it reflects the reporter's poli- tical or personal slant. This is not possible in The Tech, because the effective policy of The Tech is to not have the editors favor any candidates.

The political opinion of the editor of The Tech is reasonable, yet I don't feel that this opinion should be changed. The current information which might lead someone to form an opinion is the article from George Phillips' position.

(End note: Of the two major stories concerning the candidate, the Press Conference and the Debate, each was written by a different reporter, independently reported the story as it saw it. There was no attempt to influence, by any, Mr. Phil- lips' presentation.

The charge that we have distor- ted Mr. Phillips by quoting out of context does not stand up when we view the evidence. The press conference story of Feb. 11, written before we had seen Mr. Phillips' official statement, quoted him as saying some of his main problems confronting MIT's environment (such as) coordination of the academic and physical environmental problems ... academic problems ... and domineering problems affecting the dormitories. Mr. Phillips' statement be- gan: "Student government is called upon to deal with three major problems this year. These are academic policy, student environment, and dormitory relationships." In general, the statements and views we attribute to Mr. Phillips are those he expressed as far as we were invited to ex- hibit them. As it the Tech's office, room 485 of the Student Center. They will be printed as the column board side by side.)

Food Complaint

To the Editor:

Just recently a trial program of the new self-service cafeteria at the expense of MIT. Just as recently, I, a Walker patron, have noticed that the servings have gone from the occasionally heaping spoon full to the pesamente spoon help- ful. It is somewhat more reassuring to constantly find the Self-servers sort shaking out the contents of the serving size dish or deliberately turning the extra portions from your plate because he thinks he gave you too much. Whether this move by Self-servers is a conspiracy to starve people or conscious, or to undermine the Techman's capit- alist inclinations is something that we will never know. As the program stands now, however, it represents an econ- omic exploitation on the part of the student in the case of the non-commons patrons. The latter is in no way a good sign of concern for his money and the food he formerly got is now being refused. A program for which MIT is sup- posed to be footing the bill. As the non-commons patrons have it already paid for this food, Self-servers now comes about out of finely with nearly the same charge. In conclusion, I suggest to you that if regular patrons were not so successful in the case of the non-commons patrons would probably not need to go back for seconds. thirds, and fourths. The non-commons patrons will be in a competitive higher cost would be unnecessary."

Benjamin Ashton '67

SCEP Formed

Oral examinations

By Alan R. Milner

The problem of college grades is one of measurement when put into familiar terms. How does one go about evaluating the learning that goes on? How do we seriously restricting the forms which that process may take?

The solution to this problem lies in evaluating what a student learns in the course of his education. The credit system is often all too effective in crush- ing any enthusiasm for a subject in order to give the student a grade. Therefore, one of the aims of SCEP's oral examination program is to give the student a method of finding out what he has learned and how he has learned it.

Currently there are three ways to measure the learning process: the essay exam, the term paper, and the oral exam. Although essay exams have been used for centuries, they are both time-consuming and inefficient. Term papers, while effective in conveying a student's knowledge of the subject, are often too brief to convey the whole picture. Oral exams, on the other hand, are a more personal way of evaluating students. They allow the examiners to ask questions about the material, and can be tailored to fit the student's style of thinking. They also give the student an opportunity to show his understanding of the subject in a more personal way.

The idea of SCEP's oral examination program is that the student should be allowed to choose the form of his exam, rather than being forced to take an essay exam. The program's goal is to help students find the right way to learn the material, and to give them the chance to show their understanding of it in a way that is most effective for them.

SCEP's program is currently in the planning stages, and will be implemented in the near future. The program will be open to all students, and will be available in a variety of forms. It is hoped that the program will be successful in helping students to learn in a way that is most effective for them, and that it will help them to succeed in their studies.

The program will be directed by a group of instructors who have experience in teaching and understanding students. These instructors will be available to students to help them choose the form of their exam, and to answer any questions they may have. The program will also include a peer evaluation system, in which students can evaluate each other's performance on the exams. This will help to ensure that the exams are fair and that they are being conducted in a way that is most effective for the students.

The program will be implemented in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the students. It will be available in a variety of forms, including essay exams, term papers, and oral exams. The program will be available on a voluntary basis, and students will be encouraged to choose the form of their exam that is most effective for them.

The program will be evaluated on a regular basis, and will be adjusted as necessary. The goal of the program is to help students find the right way to learn the material, and to give them the chance to show their understanding of it in a way that is most effective for them. It is hoped that the program will be successful in helping students to learn in a way that is most effective for them, and that it will help them to succeed in their studies.