The quality of teaching

Of all our college associations the most unforgettable is the truly inspired and dedicated teaching faculty. It is most unfortunate that what’s-his-name who taught so miserably. A great teacher may permanently influence a student’s thinking and philosophy; a poor one is probably bound to be left unremembered, because at his worst he turns students away from his particular field.

One of the requirements of the Privy Council of Professors and instructors at the university level have not had education courses, nor does their teaching ability significantly affect their future in the academic realm. The performance of the awards, for the excellence halls, is that the teaching ability, of at least five times, is considered minimally in the tenure decision process at best. Nor does later advancement in the academic hierarchy hinge very critically on actual pedagogical skills.

The quality of teaching at the undergraduate level remains largely a student problem. The initiative for suggested improvements in the management of the institution, in the particular field, and published material. The ability to communicate ideas efficiently and accurately is considered minimally in the tenure decision process at best. Nor does later advancement in the academic hierarchy hinge very critically on actual pedagogical skills.

Intelligent discussion is impossible if the knowledge of the topic is anything but perfect. Nothing is more frustrating for an instructor than to attempt a discussion in a class in which one in the class has done any reading.

In regard to personal contacts, too many students never met with their instructor, except with an instructor outside of class. This is a serious mistake which unfortunately limits a student’s educational experience. The faculty of this Institute is probably more willing to discuss research, publishing, and other academic chores to just sit down and “shop the halls.” But the student who never sought out his professor, who never took advantage of the opportunity to discuss any academic problems, the quality of the education, and not, is getting shortchanged on his tuition.

As one small advantage in encouraging better teaching and suggesting better teaching methods, we will feature in “Faculty Spotlight” an occasional article, inspired by lessen instructors, asking them questions about their philosophy of instruction, their techniques, and what brought them to MIT.

Although we do not wish to sponsor any debate, we would like to hear from any students who know of professors who are conspicuously good teachers. Suggestions may be mailed to WO-435, or dropped off directly at our offices.

Letters to the Tech

Chess club checkpoint

Stephen wonders

To the Editor:

I understand that the press has again inquired about future meetings and Saturday in room 407 of the Student Center, scheduled a tournament for Saturday, Nov. 12, which would take about 4 hours, and started publicly of the event. Today (Tuesday) we were informed by the Secretary of the cause of a meeting of the National Association of Student Unions in the Eastern part of the country, that the hall will be available until 3:30 p.m. The Stratford Towers Association, however, has a fixed event on Saturday only, was similarly affected.

This is the second change of room availability is not unique. In the last year and a half, the Chess Club has been hit at least five times; the current instance represents one of the series noted, has never received.

So activities are generally timed of the flagship disregard of SCSC for “permanent” room reservations. Especially because of the meetings of other important meetings must sometimes take up most or all of the room in the Student Center, we nevertheless feel that such instances represent a group of permanent room reservations of displacements at least 2 weeks in advance, or not make the changes at all.

It is high that SCSC acted responsibly to insure that the “first come, who planned in advance with space in the Student Center, and available in favor of those who did not plan far enough in advance to reserve the proper amount of space.”

Peter Mead
‘67

Chess Club

To the Editor:

The Runkel Towers Association has followed the examples of the bowlovers, with great delight and pity. Dis让您在自己的生活和球队中表现出色, and for the poor Bowlers. The Towers Association is proud of its Viking red, bronze trimmed, and built to the 1953 /25 cubic yards of Institute gay. This immense, aesthetic project was followed with similar effort and expense by the Association Staff (the Engineering Department and the Students House building fund). So what's so special about Board?

Fred Kummer '71

Towers Association Sec.