Hello, Goodbye

At the brink — the last Editorial of Volume 57 — the Editor usually brings together some last thoughts about MIT, its history, and the future. It is always good luck, and thus ends his term of office. But, this Editorial is as much a Hello as a Goodbye. It should be a Hello, because The Tech has failed to address itself directly to the students; it has referred to them, pandered to some of their passing concerns, and has speculated around here and there, as if it does not look squarely into the eyes of the students and confront them with themselves. In that sense, this is Hello.

But whatever the failings of The Tech, they are only symptomatic of the larger failings of MIT.

A few months ago we received a letter from a Tech graduate, now in graduate school in California. He wrote of the differences between the two schools, noting that in some ways Tech was better, but in some ways worse. He said, "This campus is buzzing with talk — not about tomorrow's 6.01 problem set, but about tomorrow's telephone call from home. People talk as much about Vietnam and the draft as they do about lasers..."

And at ( ) , after talk and deliberation there comes enough action... I'm not saying that one has to find a cause or a new experience and go out and push or do it. I'm only saying that something seems wrong with an atmosphere in which "brilliant" people find nothing new in this whole world which excites them enough, or troubles them enough, or needs improvement enough, for them to get out of bed and do something. Why MIT stirs action instead of promoting it, I don't know; maybe it's an untenable work load, maybe it's deliberate calming down in administration. Whatever the cause, the result is discouraging to the爬 the

It is more than discouraging to characterize the indolence and unambitious apathy exhibited at MIT, it is obscene. If the students here are purported to be something special, something in a society that is anything unique. It is obscene when the supposed intellects in abundance here are "oblivious to social issues of any kind and willing to let Pretentious Harvard coming while the world burns." (That is quoted from Ray Mungo, former Editor of the B.U. News, and the last Editorial to find quoted here.) The student body seems frozen by the paroxysms which followed Spunkitch, unaware that a larger struggle for peace and sanity has transgressed the race to the moon.

The problem of student life in general is not one of freedom, but of irrelevance. The question here is whether there is a student power, but perhaps for what purpose?

The administration at MIT is not guilty of denying students their rights, of supressing them, or halting their actions. It is guilty of supressing more, and hence far less easy to detect or combat than any heavy-handed establishment. The administration has made a second-class partner of the student and especially of the so-called student leaders. But in forming the facade of partnership, the students have not realized the consequences of their pact, nor have they been aware of the price they pay. The administration has crucified the students on a cross of responsibility. It has made incompetence (in the narrow, bureaucratic sense of the word) an cardinal sin. (The greatest accolade heaped upon a prospective Finboard chairman is that he is "competent" or the like, is almost bit-

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133. The extremely cold weather of the past week has witnessed a normal winter toll of automobiles troubles. Everywhere one looks, there are cars a mile behind the right side of the road buried in snow, and in the morning, the number of cars which won't start attests the imagination. Various means have been employed to start cold engines, but none more ingeniously than that used by the owner of a Volkswagen in front of Building 31. This inventor borrowed a hot lamp and a long extension cord, and then put the lamp in his engine compartment. He waited for the heat to do its job. 134. Four out of the next five fall term will have Registration Day conflicting with the Jewish High Holy Days. To eliminate the difficulties arising, it is probable that there will be two days to the students may register.

This same incestuous partnership is even stronger between student government and the administration. While the student government has all the organs of administration at its disposal, running activities, controlling funds, conducting studies, making recommendations — all work a subtle unconscious allegiance to the administration's point of view. And such an allegiance is a more effective censor than any brutal coercion.

Justification, indeed encouragement, of the kind of behavior represented by student activities here includes the phrase, "total educational experience." The personal growth, gains, and benefits which are attributable to extra-curricular participation, in conjunction with the academic process, are supposed to produce the most competent student leaders for the future world, profoundly competent, experienced. But, the total educational environment at MIT, more often than not, does one only help the student appreciate his own milieu, not with the total world. Student life insulates the student from the realities and priorities of the world. Too often a student's values about his society go unquestioned here, they are reinforced; the humanities and social sciences are mere frills of education, their status is that of adornment, not an integral part of development.

We earlier raised the question — responsibility to whom? We believe the students here have a responsibility to themselves for how they find themselves. We believe that MIT has a responsibility to provide as much encouragement in that direction as possible. We believe that the students are a integral part of MIT to present it accurately and honestly — which may not always be the same image as public relations. And the administration as well. For most, this newspaper has a responsibility to the students to deal honestly and completely with the graver concerns of all problems — to keep the pressure on those who are relevant, not because they are popular or uncontroversial. If this newspaper fails in that regard, therefore, and every student who is concerned and has never voiced his complaint, or who has never offered his help and opinions, is to blame.