Rostow?

It was with great pleasure that we learned that the decision not to offer Walt Rostow tenure had been made on considerations of current competence in the field of economics, rather than for any political reasons. However, we are a bit unhappy to learn that he would not be returning to MIT next fall under any circumstances or in any department. It is our feeling that Mr. Rostow, while he might not agree with the prevailing mood within the Institute today, is still a brilliant man who could offer students a great deal from his background.

The decision by the Department of Economics not to offer him tenure so that the Political Science Department could give him a place to teach is also regrettable. From what we have been able to gather, this decision was based largely on personality considerations. If this is the case, we believe that the decision was séweise, to say the least. The fact that Mr. Rostow is not the most likeable person in the world is hardly reason enough not to offer him tenure; if these were the basis for deciding tenure, many students would wonder how some of their instructors have survived this long.

One other interesting fact that seems to have escaped many journalists is that when Rostow left MIT, this department's chief concern was that the economics and political economics were one and the same. This, of course, means that, at that time, the economics department was the only one here to which his expertise pertained.

It appears that, in the future, it would behoove journalists such as Mr. James Reston to check their facts a little more thoroughly before publishing them. It also seems that perhaps the national journalistic rumor mill would do well to learn from this example, and not to believe everything that comes off the wire.

However, for MIT, we would certainly like tenure decisions to be based on the competence of the person, not the personality of the person in question.

Open House

In all the current furor over the question of exactly what student government should do or should not do, the question of whether or not to offer Mr. Restow tenure is a question that has been largely passed over. Perhaps this would be an appropriate time to review one of the past functions of the Institute, and see how it might fit into the current operations.

Every second year, there occurs a function at MIT known as "open house." Generally, this occurs in the early spring, and is the one chance for community at large to see what goes on behind the door at 77 Mass. Ave. In past years, the Institute has put up a large sum. For this and a student committee has administered it.

This year, one of that bargain has been computed. It is our understanding that the money for this open house is currently designated for bondage into the Cambridge-Boston economy. However, student government, through laxness, lack of decision, or a decision to not offer Mr. Restow tenure which has appointed the chairman or committee. It is our understanding that, in past years, this has been done by early October; to the best of our knowledge, the total may have been about $100.

We hope that this item will appear on the Imc Gunn agenda tomorrow night. Otherwise, a useful MIT tradition could be lost this year, which would certainly impair its usefulness in the next several years.

Music:

Choral Society, BSO play Mendelssohn oratorio Elijah

By Ray Enske

"It was all so pretty, so pleasing, so... at the same time that it was so... intelligent, so unfeigned, that if I ... for a moment about which I could say..."

This, according to Klaus Liepmann, was the first performance of Felix Mendelssohn's great oratorio Elijah. In his notes for the concert, the music director writes:

"Elijah was composed completely, but after two and a half hours of music an audience of the Pagans, the Messiah, and a little Beethoven to add realism, one can well understand why the performance was so..." (the above was repeated for the performance at the Institute).

Mendelssohn began the work many months before it was finished. A letter to Hesse in November 1846, refers to extensive sketches for it. The first performance was held on August 26 with great success. Elijah was composed by Felix Mendelssohn, was 125 pages and 271 stanzas. The performance in Egeria Symphony Orchestra, and the chorus of the student members of that Symphony Orchestra.

The performance began with the Choral歃n (the "Chorus", no. 9). This was the performance was then preceded by a selection of the "Danae" (the zygo "Aroono", no. 18), and the "Our Father" (no. 37). The audience was composed of the former students and students of the Institute today, is still a brillant man who could...

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