Wrong order, Mr. Nixon

"Nixon denounces student violence," read the Sunday headlines. Unfortunately, that is a very easy way to make short-term political hay these days, especially in California where incidents on campus have made the residents particularly paranoid. What is indeed unfortunate is the way in which any student "requests," "proposals," "demands" and whatever are lumped together with violence by many people. Attempting to even discuss student participation in the university community with an over-thirty average citizen of California can be an extremely frustrating experience.

Despite the wide press coverage Nixon's quota seems to have received, the accompanying release of a letter sent to college administrations by HEW Secretary Finch merely reminds the administrators that the federal government in its report of June, withdrew aid, at the instruction's request, from any student convicted of unlawful activity. This refers to a law that has been on the books for some time. On this campus, the Institute has not yet used this law (to the best of our knowledge), and apparently has no intent of doing so. It's interesting to note that this entire message, however, was only found by those who bothered to read all the way to the end of the story. Other student newspapers placed emphasis on ending campus violence, he also said that universities must fight "depersonalization of the educational experience" and the "internal homogenization of the student body." Added that universities must work towards "students involvement in decision-making and a new emphasis on faculty teaching.

When we consider his statement, we must wonder why it hasn't occurred to him that more work done earlier to alleviate the latter problem would have resulted in him having less trouble with the former.

Letters to The Tech

March 4 in retrospect

To the Editor:

Now that some of the uproar over Mezzacotta has died down, perhaps some clearer discussions of the issues involved in campus protest should like to summarize a few of my own opinions, because I believe they have fallen into a not-well-publicized sort of middle ground.

To begin, classified work and "war associated" work are simply not identical. To call them both "war" is foolish as though they were—regardless of SACC deciding to define them as equal. I therefore propose to treat them separately.

I believe the Institute should not offer any classified courses because I believe that the only valid basis for refusing to allow a student into a class is academic. To say that Joe Smith may not be admitted to a course just because he wishes to contribute to the national defense, is academic. To say that Joe Smith may not be admitted because I believe they fall into a "war associated" group is irrational.

As far as "war associated" work is concerned, I feel it is up to each person to decide for himself what is and is not morality acceptable in this regard; those who wish to contribute to the national defense should not be prevented from doing so by those who do not approve.

I believe the Institute should not insist faculty assign students to classified courses, because they believe that these courses should be integral parts of the academic-scientific community, and restricted circulation of a thesis is contrary to this perception of the development of the student.

I believe there is nothing wrong with faculty or students conducting research of which they are proud, so long as it does not overly limit their participation in such a development.

As far as the pressures of economic necessity are concerned, I believe ROTC should be considered anathema unless one can find it consistent on the academic level with the educational experience. The fact remains, those who wish to participate in ROTC should not be prevented from doing so by those who do not approve.

Gerald Blum

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Pinball

I don't think that pinball machines belong in the Student Center. Aside from the problems relating to the disposal of the profits and the appeals of the masters of our machine, there is the primary problem of space. There are many student activities that need room, and space on the fourth floor is insufficient. Thus by taking up a meeting room, the pinball machines are making this shortage much worse.

Since the Student Center Committee decided that there is extra space on the first floor and the second floor we can help alleviate the space problem.

Steve Lock

Member Student Center Committee

Larger issues

To the Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to offer a word commendation of your temperate and thoughtful editorial, "Time Confronts for Chip," with which I agreed in the March 19 faculty meeting. Although the factual result of the votes taken at that meeting would seem to leave us where we were, I really do believe that we are in the right case. The debate surrounding the question of the Chip, however, is one that I feel needs to be focused to the attention of the Faculty as a whole on the larger questions concerning undergraduate education at MIT. If the need to tackle such questions had been more...

Let there be Spring

We would like to support God's recent move away from winter and into the much more relevant season of spring. We feel that such a move is in the best interests of all concerned; one that has been praised by many as well as the student body is disputable. It is rumored that UAP and the

The little things that count—and the last week turned out a number of mini-events worthy of comment. An assortment of little used could be found in the President's House. One of the more interesting was a collection of plants belonging to the President's office. Unfortunately, Tom Lehrer has already managed to weasel student input.

We feel that such a move is in the best interests of all concerned; one that has been praised by many as well as the student body. It is rumored that UAP and the

The administration has seen fit to involve students in a decision which has a major effect on their lives at the Institute; the choosing of a new Dean for Students. UAP was informed by the formation of a joint committee made up of the student representatives and to the precedents that the MIT administration has followed in the past. There was also an ad hoc group of students for some interested in such an event; like many interests of all concerned; one that has been anticipated by the Administration for some time.

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