Letters to The Tech

To the Editor:
I have decided to withdraw myself from consideration as a candidate for UAP.
After great care and long deliberation, I determined that the purposes I had wished to serve by running for this candidacy could best be attained by supporting Robert Dreiser, rather than running for myself.
Once I had made the initial decision, it became obvious that I could not win. I realized that by continuing my candidacy, I would be denying colleagues the opportunity to elect them, and defeating my initial purpose.

Paul Johnston
President, Burton House

January Plan

We fully support the proposal change in the Institute calendar calling for an independent study period at the end of January. The Institute calendar offers the Institute an opportunity for meaningful reform in its educational structure, yet allows the matter to be treated on an experimental basis. We feel that this represents an opportunity back to the present system always readily available.

An entire month which would be totally free from any pressures to perform could be the most beneficial time psychologically and physically for probably almost any student at the Institute. It is the chance to do research on any topic for a month, to have the opportunity to attend seminars and discussion groups in a meaningful way. A formal course could be structured into four weeks of intensive study for the more rigorous student. It would truly be an opportunity for self-directed, independent study.

At the same time many students might opt to do very little in terms of formal education. Some might go to Europe and write a book, do very little in terms of formal education. Plans have benefitted time psychologically and physically for probably the Institute calendar calling for an independent study MIT have formulated the initial purpose.

In continuing my candidacy, I have decided to withdraw. To those who supported me, I extend my appreciation and the best wishes. To those who opposed Mr. Edelman and Mr. Dreiser, I would find it heartening to elect them, and defeating my initial purpose.

Thus I urge all students who considered voting for me to vote for Bob Dreiser or Chip Bovarnick instead. To those who supported me, I extend my deepest gratitude and my sincereness thanks for their campaign work.

I think the Institute can be forever brought together this year, and I would hope that I could have a hand in it. In my mind, I originally declared my candidacy just as an expository act, and I'll now withdraw from the race.

It's a good luck and best to all you.

Paul Johnston
President, Burton House

The following programs associated with the annual Winter Study week will be open to all members of the MIT community:
9:30: Seminars with MIT International Media
Bush Room: Fred Friendly, Edwin Diamond
Student Center West Lounge: Mike Wallace, Thomas Winship
1:00: Meet the panels Mike Wallace—Fabian Room, Ashdown House Fred Friendly—Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center Edwin Diamond—Master Suite Lounge, Student Center Thomas Winship—McCormick Hall, Private Dining Room
3:00: Foreign policy and the media Fred Friendly, Thomas Winship, Prof. Ethel Pool, in Room 3-186
3:00: Domestic problems and the media Edwin Diamond, Mike Wallace, Prof. Ian Douglas, in Room 3-444

Announcements

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The main program, on "Mass Communication of Complicated Issues," will be at 8 pm in Krage Auditorium. Ticket holders will be admitted preferentially.

War, not environment is issue for activists

By Steve Carhart

Looking at all the looks which now surrounds the environmental crusade, it's a bit difficult to realize that only a scant 15 months ago the conclusion was that, it would adversely affect final environmental reform.

We call upon the MIT Faculty to respond positively to this opportunity for widening the students' education by approving the January Plan at the next Faculty meeting. To quote from the 1968 Report of the President: "... we must be prepared to give all possible opportunity to formulate his plans, to have full access to the resources of MIT, and to write his own educational ticket, to the extent that this makes sense."

The problems involved in implementing the January Plan are minor when compared to the benefits which would accrue. Similar problems are used at other schools, mostly small liberal arts colleges, and have proved themselves very successful and popular. Perhaps, the MIT Commission will enforce the plan and permit students to make a commitment to solving the problems.

We urge all interested students to urge their representatives to vote positively on the January Plan when it is addressed to the MIT Community.