by Alex Makowski

Student newspapers should act as part of the MIT "team"—an MIT administrator

Students working for college newspapers are forever facing the question of what they have done with the papers. Should we indulge in critical attacks on the administration, since they're (supposedly) out to screw students to the wall? Another tempting option is to go along with the administration in hopes of getting special privileges or contributing to the "team's" success. There are several options that neither the MIT administration nor the students have over done the past two terms and what it might mean.

Information

Most of the current editors believe that The Tech's most important job is to get information to students and faculty. Administrators don't have to read our newspaper as a result of what the paper has over the past two terms and what it might mean.

Essential to this role is a reputation as a source of useful, current news. Editors need the trust of their readers, for trust is what makes a newspaper. The students have a right to expect us to provide them with the information they need and to trust the editors to provide him with the information he needs and wants. The Tech editors are expected to cover such important topics as education, housing, discipline, and commons. Our editorial page has appeared occasionally, the main change in editorial policy is that we have added an "open" column. For students and faculty unfamiliar with the ways of writing, we have added a new column that will provide commentary on changes in policy and personnel.

Perhaps it sounds too much like an advertisement or an apology. Indeed, at the beginning of the year we "stand The Tech a bit better if they have a feel for how decisions are made. Our newspapers can fill an important role. They should venture into the "team's" success, and we faculty recognize their aims and take advantage of their services.

Letters to The Tech

Cancelling Classes

To the editor:

In his letter to The Tech of May 4, Philip Morrison takes the attitude that if any action directed by one's "conscience" is justified, regardless of the effects of that action on others. By this premise, he states his intention of cancelling classes. The attitude appears to be that those who do not want to lose class time may not be considered. Mr. Morrison says he will request that his classes be cancelled for the first time. I am led to understand that he is within his rights in doing this, but I do not believe his action is appropriate. Taking time out of a teaching schedule for a political action is not more justifiable than taking time out for anything else one has a right to do. If one professor can postpone his lecture for a political rally, another can postpone it for a Red Sox game. I am not personally convinced that we should consider watching a baseball game a more moral action than asking the students to cancel classes (which is the approximate amount of time paid per class hour) to each student who is screwed out of one class, and it should get this money by withholding a day's pay from each faculty member who refuses to go. The time lost is the moratorium. Gary McGath '73

Technique

To the editor:

The last few weeks have been a steady stream of anti-war activity. The student newspaper has an important role to play in this. The students should trust the editors to provide him with information, he also may turn to his knowledge and experience in writing, and be considerate of the views of the students and faculty.

Political stance

It seems to miss the point to speak of an institution's political stance as either liberal or wishy-washy. This is, of course, true. Rarely during the past year have we editorialized on political or social issues. Much of our opinion has been about the educational issues, and now we have come out strongly for a greater recognition of the need for student participation. We have tried to represent our students' causes while recognizing our obligation to responsible and rational criticism.

How has this news and editorial policy been translated into action? Throughout the past year, as mentioned earlier, we tried to cover such important topics as education, housing, discipline, and commons. Our editorial page has appeared occasionally, and I am pleased to announce changes in editorial policy, grades, requirements, and tenure procedures. For students and faculty unfamiliar with the ways of writing, we have added a new column that will provide commentary on changes in policy and personnel.

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