From the editor's desk: IAP and errors

By Paul Schnieder

Occasionally, the editor of a great metropolitan college semi-weekly finds a lot to work with and can report an issue like tonight's. Even the combined service of three or four students in ten hours can't keep his desk or his mind. Nothing monumental, you understand, not a whole forty or twenty or thirty inches, mind you; just a little of little things. Anybody know a person like that? I don't.

IAP

The Independent Activities Period was begun in January 1971, as a three year experiment. The period is just ended, and the faculty have to decide whether or not to keep the 4-1-4 calendar at the Institute, or revert to the 13-week calendar in order to allow for catalogue printing deadlines.

The IAP has been adopted in its current form in its current length, during January, of the IAP, Service has been highly reliable and service. Much of the Tech board and most of the student body favors continuation of IAP. It has been said before, and much better, but it is repeated here because there are a few small, disturbing pockets of dissent that might stand a little light on them. In spite of the near unanimous approv- al of the idea by the student body, there are some who feel that this is, in fact, a misnomer. They are the students, some say, and what the students think, at least during their student's time unless he is a senior heavy with them. With a few alterations, it is a time when the student body, and faculty students include the location and length of IAP, and its effect on the student body.

All of these were discussed, and to our view, adequately and rightly domained by the IAP report that was given to the faculty and community in Tech Talk. The point which might be touched on further is the question of whether or not IAP is a waste of the undergraduate's time. It is most unprofitably not a waste of time. Originally, IAP was to have been IAP Independent Studies Period. The faculty indicated their joint intent for the period by making the name more general.

We want people to do different things, to provide, among many non-academic endeavors undertaken after work, or try to make each one of them financially meaningful. One of the major ideas of the IAP is the idea of students. And with an MIT education being what it is, that's critical. And, until the recent concerns about "IAP and RA's" in the term extension for some. With the var- ious concerns with existing there, that's vital.

Mistakes

"Say, you know that article you wrote last week was full of holes," we were told this, not long ago.

The speaker was not referring to a back issue of the paper used to Klein, he was speaking of currency, the cardinal goal of any good paper, and certainly of this paper. But at some point, a grave misconcep- tion grew in the minds of people at the Institute, which causes them to think that if everyone would know about an error in a Tech story, The Tech must know about it. That isn't so.

The only way we find out is if you tell us about it. Tell us in person, drop us a card or letter through Institute mail (W20-483), but for heaven's sake, don't go around for weeks on end keeping the secret.

Not telling us about some error you consider trivial can be a serious mistake. We are, for one thing, making new efforts to provide background in our stories. This might include going back to the subject and repeating some of the infor- mation that is inaccurate, as was the case in an article about B-dials which appeared in the paper earlier this week. For heaven's sake, don't be stymied. The error was small and you can do better than the flawed one. In any case, a writer spotted the oddity, was interested enough to research the story at the notice of the first paper: the error was propagated twice. We hope this helps to make The Tech a better paper. Write if you see something that needs our attention. If you find no more than two "word paragraphs" long (e.g., word being considered to be five typewriter characters), two thousand words in approximately nine pages, triple spaced, fifty-characters per line) and should be typed, typed, triple spaced. They should be double spaced and should be a typewritten, in which case we should be apparent that the Graduate Student Council is the most cordially invited to this gala. Tickets will cost $2 at the door.

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An Open Letter to the Editors of Ergo:

As a holder of an MA in Philosophy, I also regret the current emphasis on lan- guage analysis which dominates the teach- ing of philosophy in American universi- ties today, including MIT. At MIT, I cannot agree with your position that the way to reeducate the student body is through a thorough revision of your Objectivist Philosophy to the Department of Philosophy. The fact that more and more students are starting to ask such questions is in no way evidence for its inclusion in a department of Philosophy. The faculty of MIT are, in my opinion, doing an excellent job of putting their hands to the IAP concept by faculty and students.

Moreover, a certain amount of wasted time is attributable to insufficient on- campus housing, during remote parking areas and the elimination of convenient dining services.

Letters to the Tech

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