Technique '73: shooting MIT

By P.E. Schindler, Jr.

With the death of Voodoo, the Tech has been hard-pressed to find any campus publication with which it can carry on a long-term feud. Over the years, many a front-page story was filled with softball games, board elections, and Dean's office crackdowns on that hapless relic of a humor magazine. After Voodoo's long overdue death in 1969, some of its remnats fell to this paper, and cast about for a new rivalry.

Technique became a sitting duck at about that time, and several acutic reviews of their annual efforts have appeared since. They deserved it. The book had degenerated into a pretty picture book which bore scant relation to MIT, except for the senior pictures in the back. Many students felt that it was not their function in life to support the artistic ego of a group of aspiring photographers on the yearbook staff.

Technique '73 is an outstanding change of pace: it is a great book this year, and the people down the hall have sounded the death-knell of a rivalry based on MIT, and remember what it was that will make you think of the book: was asked to write the essays for the yearbook, but it does make sense to have photographers stick to photos, and ask writers to do the writing.

In addition, many of the identifying cutlines are a little too small, a little too unsubstantial. I agree completely with Ritter's response to my inquiry about cutlines: "It's fine to run cutlines in eight pages of a newspaper, but if you tried to run them in a 320 page yearbook, they would very quickly become cutesy." The pictures do a pretty good job of telling the story.

What did Technique '73 choose to cover? The strike and the ROTC occupation, of course; the people who visited MIT, activities, sports, living groups (but as usual, only those that bought a page), Talbot House, and the usual miscellany (but in sensible proportions) with a special MBTA section.

A word of warning about the MBTA section: there is an odd little cartoon at the end of it, drawn in an adequate if not overwhelming rendition of modern underground style. In spite of its execution, the concept is overwhelming to anyone who has speculated on the mysterious depths of subway tunnels and what they might contain. It is imaginative, and a departure from the usual contents of a yearbook.

This yearbook, like any other, in good years or bad, contains memories in the form of an almost complete, catalogue-style photo list of graduating seniors. Any book has that. People who are active in student activities will find pictures of themselves in odd places. Any book has that. Some fraternities have excellent pages (these are laid out by the purchaser, not by the yearbook staff, so don't blame them for the heavy ones, but don't credit them for the good ones either); especially PBE, which has a page

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