

Students living in library cause problems

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study in the library. Although other libraries such as Dewey allow a student to reserve a carrell and/or locker for specified periods of time, the Student Center Library has no such provisions.

The Student Center Committee (SCC), which is responsible for making policy on this issue, has reportedly decided to permit student sleeping in the Library as long as the student involved maintains a residence elsewhere. According to sources within the Library administration, special policies are in effect for some students; one student who frequents the Library has reportedly received authorization from the Medical Department to live there unmolested.

SCC Questionnaire

A questionnaire distributed recently by the SCC in the Library, dealing with furnishings and uses of the facility has led many students to question the Committee's commitment to its stated policies. The questions asked if the respondent felt the furnishings in the Library should allow or discourage sleeping, and whether the respondent felt that the Library should be used for such purposes. Suggestions for



adding coffee and food vending machines to the lobby outside the Library were also mentioned on the questionnaire.

"It seems to me," one student told *The Tech* "that they're asking whether the Library should be a place to study or another dormitory. I don't think that having people live there is a proper use of the facilities."

The SCC questionnaire cited sleeping on the existing furniture as one reason for the high rate of wear that has plagued the Library's facilities. The furniture has been provided directly by Physical Plant in the past; there

are, as yet, no indications that this policy will change, as the results of the survey are still being processed.

Questions of Access

According to Student Center Librarian Francis E. Haslett, other problems enter into the consideration of the Library's use. The checkers at the door, for instance, have been given discretionary power to determine if users of the Library are members of the Institute community, due to problems when the Library opened with use of the facilities by students from other colleges in the area.

Haslett explained that Institute identification is not required at all times of persons entering the Library, but that the checkers challenge only those people whose MIT affiliation is open to question. "Some students, who see someone walk in ahead of them without being challenged, complain that they are being unjustly harassed, while it might just be that the checker is not as familiar with them," Haslett said. "We feel that the majority of the users will benefit by these policies."

Usage Declined

Haslett told *The Tech* that usage of the Library had declined in recent years, due to the increased numbers of departmental reading rooms and other library facilities. She pointed out

"where work and isolation can be so much of a strain, emotionally and physically."

Haslett cited problems with users who don't return books to the shelves, or who hide or remove books, as an important problem for other users. "Ten or twelve years ago, students had a smattering of respect for regulations and courtesy," she said. "The students are much more unscrupulous on that kind of thing now."

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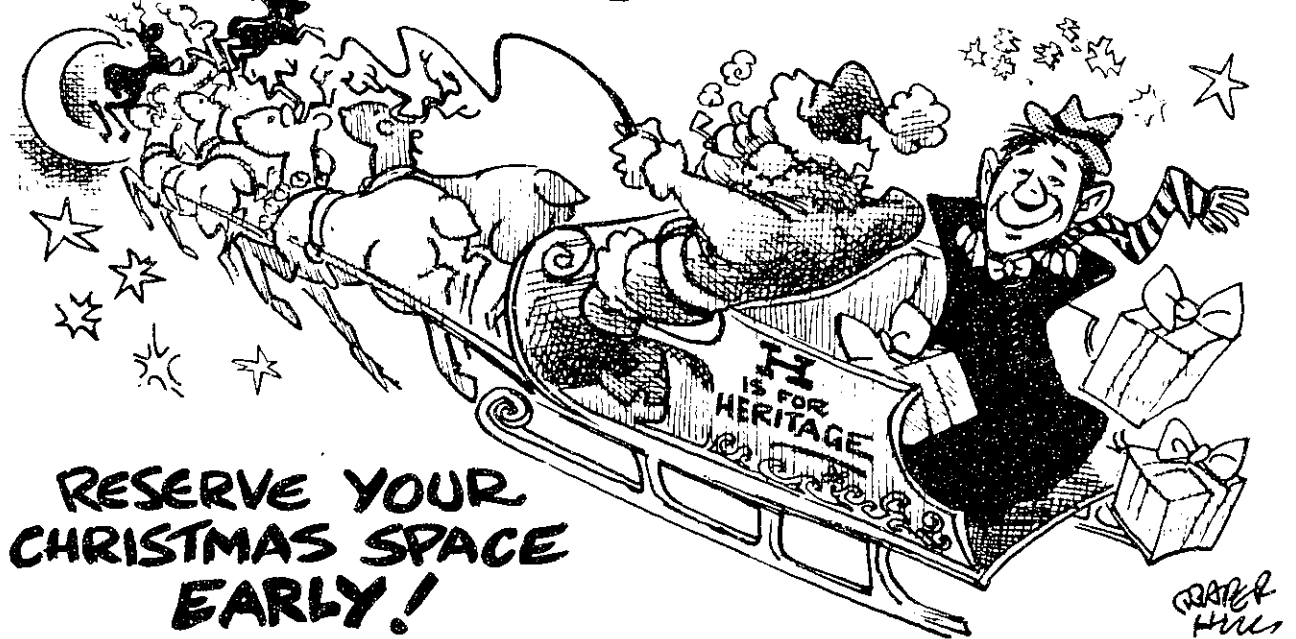
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The MIT Student Artists Association is sponsoring a one night holiday film festival. For the first time in years in the New England area the silent film classic "The Tramp" will be shown. This is the film in which Charlie Chaplin creates the character that made comedy history. Another classic is the Chaplin film "The Gold Rush" voted Best All Time Comedy in a critics poll of 40 nations. Plus the Chaplin film "The Pawnshop."

On the same bill will be the Mack Sennett Production of W.C. Fields in "The Fatal Glass of Beer." Also showing will be "The Great Chase" and "The Great McGonicle," all starring W.C. Fields. An extra attraction will be the Keystone Kops in "Dollars and Sense."

The Festival will be held on December 17, Monday, at 8:30pm at Kresge Auditorium, MIT Campus. Tickets are only \$2.00 and can be purchased in advance at the TCA office, MIT Student Union or Paul's Shoe Repair Shop, 698 Mass Ave, Central Square, Cambridge. Info: 253-4885.

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