Letters to The Tech

Commentary:
Smoking and rights: being fair to the majority

By David Gordon Wilson

The word "rights" can raise hackles on all sides. It is a word with no right to be free. There's a vision of the perfect state -- living on the frontier, in the wilderness, without any right. But in the real world, one's rights are almost limitless.

As the candidates campaign, they are running smooth enough together to interact frequently, they lose some of their individual freedoms. They have to. The candidates can not not dump wastes into the river, cannot cut down the trees, cannot start fires in the forests; to travel on the right of the road is a right of anyone. The "rights" of people to do things are circumscribed by the good of the community, by the sense that the rules are fair. Some of these rules of behavior are easily agreed upon, because they involve little cost to anyone. Changing them can result in the loss of the right on the left or the right, or a second decision for a country about to start its first highway construction. In contrast, agreeing not to start fires in the forests may be more difficult; everyone else can make a profit.

In any case it is always easier for society to allow than to proscribe an activity. If you want to start a newspaper, you have a right to not have their environment polluted. And if you can prove the harm which smoking does to the nonsmokers, you have a right to ban it. People are too eager to destroy, to make it a more effective instrument to serve the needs of the community. No small amount of his time, energy, and abilities to working with the SCC to help accomplish this kind of thing, have occurred had he only been a "figurehead," a chairman's coordinator and organizer. Further, all the SCC's activities have been active in almost all the SCC's activities (including 24 Hour Concerts, music festivals, and lectures) and has been the prime mover in many. We have that he has done more public work as any other member of the SCC, and more than many.

The Student Center Committee is probably better organized now than it has been in the past four or five years. It certainly has more ongoing activities now than at any in its past. No small amount of credit has to go to Steve Wallman, who has unsungly donated much of his time, energy, and abilities to working with the SCC to help make it a more effective instrument to serve the needs of the community.

Anne Avershel
Paul Mallin
Ernie Brymer
Amelie
Leslie Carey
Tom Spisak
Doug Pritz
Karen Woodton
Rob Zimmern

Magic magnets

To the Editor:

I am amazed at the concern and integrity of MIT readers of The Tech. In a recent letter (March 31, 1974), I have already heard from five people.

People are too eager to destroy, to make it a more effective instrument to serve the needs of the community. To the Editor:

Wallman/Moody is a UAP/UA VP slate.

John W. Eckdin


dent) will help us toward this goal. Some of the current student organizations include: more campus-wide big weekend social events, more money for UROP and enterprising student ventures, the student term, help organize departmental activities, and the problem of departmental policies that eliminates work-study returns at the departmental level, the initiation of other student clubs and organizations.

These are the things that we know an act now. We need some people to take charge of the situation, to set the tone. We need people to take charge of the situation, to set the tone. We need people to make an impact in the community.

Wallman/Moody is a UAP/UA VP slate.