Warm bodies wanted; no experience necessary

Actually, we're not that desperate. But the headline does make a point — that no experience is necessary, or even expected, to work on The Tech. In fact, many of the most "successful" people on our staff never lifted a pen, a camera, or an X-ACTO knife before they came to MIT.

What The Tech does for MIT

There are a number of publications at MIT — four or five undergraduate newspapers, several magazines, a graduate newspaper, and an administration newspaper. The Tech falls into the "undergraduate newspaper" category.

The Tech's prime objective is to serve as a newspaper (for the closest approximation possible) for the entire MIT community. As such, much of our effort is concentrated in the gathering and reporting of news — from a viewpoint (that of the undergraduate), but without a bias. Among some of the more significant events covered by The Tech last year were the detailing of a previously unannounced and undiscussed training program for Iranian graduate students in nuclear engineering at MIT. An investigation into alleged surveillance of Taiwanese students on campus by their home government, and the publishing of reports that MIT may have been involved in the transmission of Army files on civilians.

Not all issues at MIT are quite so controversial; however, when a controversy does arise, it seems the MIT community turns to The Tech's editorial pages both for the expression of their own views and to read the views of others. In fact, the Iranian issue alone produced over six pages of opinions, including a special two-page summary, with both sides of the issue represented.

In addition to the regular news and opinion, we have put together several special sections detailing important issues, such as a four-page supplement on a multitude of proposals regarding the reform of MIT's grading system.

On the less serious side, The Tech has regular arts and literary sections covering the entire spectrum of music, art, books, etc. And we have the only sports section on campus, giving coverage both to MIT's 24 intercollegiate sports and to the myriad of intramural athletics.

Back up these "word-producing" departments are a photo staff, whose members have access to some of the best darkroom facilities on campus, and our production staff, which produces (with our new photo-typesetting equipment) both The Tech and income producing work for staff members on typesetting jobs from the MIT community.

What The Tech can do for you

MIT can be a very complex and overwhelming place at times. The pressures and demands of courses, problem sets, and labs can often warp one's attitude towards life at MIT and the world in general. The Tech offers a very easy way of getting under the surface of MIT and finding out what makes a $250 million-a-year university run — or finding out why it doesn't.

In addition — actually, more importantly — at a school where friendships and friends may be hard to find, The Tech has proven for many to be an extremely active social group. When the urge to do something creative hits, it's often comforting to know that you can wander in and work with a group of people in a similar frame of mind. And then maybe go out and enjoy Boston Afterwards.

What you can do for The Tech

As little, or as much, as you wish. There are no time constraints, no minimum number of hours per week necessary. Commitments range from writing an article every few issues — maybe two or three hours of work — to performing several jobs at once and spending more time than anyone would imagine possible at MIT (while still getting decent grades). You can take yourself as far as you wish — from a staff member to an editor and maybe even beyond, into the "real world" of journalism, as several recent Tech alumni have done. It all depends on your inclinations and desires.

There used to be a time many, many years ago, when The Tech would actually hold competitions for the posts on its managing board. In this enlightened era, however, we have found it much more practical to leave an open door in all departments — news, arts, sports, production, business, advertising, photo — all the time. And whether you're a news type, or on our business or ad staffs (who, by the way, receive varying degrees of monetary incentives), our office is always open as a refuge from the hassles of the Institute.

Where to find us

Either stop by at the Activities Midway, or come by our offices (Sunday or Wednesday nights are sure bets). We're on the fourth floor of the Student Center (Room 483), MIT extension 3-1541. Or feel free to write to us this summer (P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139) if you have any questions. Oh, even if you don't happen to be a freshman, you're still welcome to come by. The wisdom and experience gained by surviving MIT for several years is always useful.

Apply in person at above address