The Undergraduate Association (UA) Forum on Drop Date which is to be held Thursday is an event that no one should miss. This meeting is an important opportunity to anticipate and discuss the Drop Date decision and the views of proponents of the change and the arguments against it.

During IAP and also late last term a number of meetings were held to discuss the changing of the drop date. The last week of the term with only one drop afterward, and much progress was made by opponents of this change. The UA AdHoc Committee on Drop Date met last December, and the League for Concerned Students, and last month a group opposed to the change met frequently but did not adopt a formal stance.

While all three groups agreed with the majority of the student body in opposing the new drop date, they each consisted of only a small number of students and points-of-view. A large Undergraduate Forum sponsored by the Undergraduate Association would hopefully bring all these views together as well as present the issues involved to more students, especially those unable to participate previously.

For the past several years there have been several forums held by the UA which have had little success. These forums have been held in place of the General Assembly, but I believe it has had no impact on student opinion.

Besides offering a fair amount of explanation and discussion, the drop date forum would also offer UA President Berke '78 the opportunity to air student views and suggestions, a prerogative he has professed interest in having. Thedrop date will also help start the attendance at the meeting. In any case the meeting will be an important test of Berke's leadership ability and a gauge of his term as UAP.

Besides offering a forum for students to voice their views, we hear student views, both new and old. Student members of the Com- mittee on Student Welfare (CSW) and educational policy (CEP) will also be there to present the reasons for their committee's recommendations. In some cases these student committees are the only organization which are often different from those of the majority of the student body. The Forums should present student voices and the CEP and CAP, which are often out-of-touch with student opinion.

Another forum on Drop Date comes in a crucial time, and will discuss some vital issues. With proper leadership this forum can consolidate the several student initiatives which have opposed the drop-date decision and also allow student views as they may be represented.

As an issue of Volume 98 of The Tech appears, so does the first installment of the new column of the editor-in-chief. Perhaps the hardest part in writing a bi-weekly column is choosing a logo which will appear in each issue. All I could decide for this one, which is the result of the effort he hoped he would tell, his workers just what to do. He turned out to have enough money to wait out, or apparently in- definitively. You can go back next, if you like, and have some Joe/Steve's ("Steve's") ice cream, if you stayed away to help him.

But if you have stayed away in part because you felt that the story of Joe/Steve's was still not complete, and that when Joe/Steve left, we, then the community, could go on and stay away, as we will have to. This issue will be special. Just getting ice cream, you could feel there was something funny, and good, about the place; the workers, and the owner, were way in love. You did something more, too; what was rarest about Steve's—precisely, every day it was—is the same, the sense, allowed to know, that the store was a public one, a place that we could decide how Steve's would evolve, and we therefore became intimately attached to the place—pride of it, and willing to worry over the hundred little decisions that keep coming up as you try to maintain a little working community that is good.

It still is, all is an ice cream store, worth such a fuss? Don't we prefer people sometimes that most people work in, where they take orders, and un- derstand that you are putting it in to make money for the owner? Yes, we know. But we have seen that work can be better than that, and now we don’t intend to forget. We hope that, gradually, other people will come to share that vision, that one day will all expect jobs that let us work for goals, not just for money.

And we are glad that so many of you clearly did understand.

There is something to take away in a sense of pride—be the quality of the store, the total operation, the store, the quality of the ice cream for a cause. Together, you have turned a very special place to hold the new owner to the assurances which give him the store that he would respect the peculiarly democratic form of the place. We're grateful that you, and we're proud, that we're glad that we did, that we're proud that we did it, and that the old Steve's was gone for good. It was worth fighting for.

We had a happy, satisfying feeling time feeding you all, and working with one another. We're sorry to have to say goodbye.

Tom Hayes Andrea Gillette Gary Brooks Chris Corker Jill Baroff Tim Jahn

Jan. 29, 1978