Technique '78

By Drew Blakeman

However unusual this academic year may have been, at least one thing has remained the same — the Technique staff has published another edition of the MIT yearbook, which is currently on sale for $12. Those who ordered in advance may now pick up their copies of Technique '78.

This edition of Technique, the 94th, is very similar in style to its immediate predecessors; the overall quality of the book is as usual generally quite good. The photography is excellent, particularly in the color section at the front of the book, although there are photos which are only of average distinction. Many of the pictures which have problems are a result of improper production techniques, with details lost to the dark or light side of the exposure range.

Most pictures, including many of those improperly exposed, were well framed by the photographer or cropped well; the subjects are juxtaposed against their backgrounds in what are often interesting and artistic arrangements. Occasionally, however, art takes precedence over what should be included in a yearbook — the people who make the school what it is. Photographs with no people in them, or with unrecognizable backs of heads, can be aesthetically pleasing, but too many of them are not interesting enough on the second or third flip through of the book.

As a chronicle of the current academic year, however, Technique '78 just doesn't make it. Although it contains the requisite athletic records and pictures of prominent lecturers, virtually all of which are unique to this year were included. Many of these events were highly controversial and an investment which will help you in the SCC office. Past entries to this year were included. Many of the pictures are taken in a low light in what are often interesting company the photographs. Without even a single intelligently written copy to accompany the photographs. Without even a single mention of these events, Technique is incomplete.

The cover is attractive, with dark brown artificial suede complementing the tan leatherette cover nicely. Unfortunately, the suede can be ruined easily, so the plastic covers sold at the book store might be a wise investment.

The paradox of Thursday included in the book is genuinely funny, and easily one of its high points. More of that type of humor should be included in future years.

Even with its faults, which are comparatively minor considering the overall high quality of the book, Technique '78 is a solid investment which will help you relax your undergraduate years at MIT in years to come. If you don't buy now, you won't be able to later; don't lament that you never bought your school's yearbook after you've left here.

Available in Lobby 10 this week.