Random thoughts on dorms and such

Steven Solnick

It’s the Christmas — er, Holiday — season and we hear a lot around this time of the year about mailing our cards early. Well, if you thought the U.S Postal Service was bad, listen to this.

A friend of mine in Connecticut sent me a letter some time ago. Since I was busy at the time with anti-war protests, the like, I was not aware that staying in the same dorm for four years was in vogue up here. Consequently, she addressed the letter to “Steven Solnick, c/o MIT (Class of ’81), Cambridge, Mass.”

Well, I finally got that letter. Through Interdepartmental mail. Thirty-four days after it was mailed. Opened.

Your guess is as good as mine.

Actually, it appears it may no longer really be in vogue to remain in the same dorm for four years. Dormcon is in the final stages of drafting a plan to facilitate inter-dormitory switching. According to Sherwood, though, the new room priority plan would be considered even if the new Dormcon plan is not realized.

The new room assignment policy would evidently take effect in the Spring.

I really, construction of the new dormitory should begin sometime this spring. There are a number of things to be worked out about this building, with all that packing to reallocate, but it seems to me this administration is neglecting the most important part of all.

We still don’t know what to call the dorm thing. How are we to know what to call all this construction was received, and we still don’t have a name for that building. Even Tech is now officially called the new dorm. Now really talks, I mean. Next House is a cute name and all that, but it really does set a bad precedent. What will we call the dorm after that? Dorm After That? Or Still Another House On Here We Go Again House?

I thought of this silliness. Something really has to be done all the inter-

The Tech. I will pass the suggestion along to the administration. To give

As for the dorms, I think the best of the one’s I’ve heard so far

A/Now House, Maxwell’s House, Oak House, In House (sup-posedly a haven for the administration as a counterpart to Oak House) and the one to heat — West Side Stories.

A putting thought. Maybe we should spend a bit less time worrying about what we are going to call the dorms, or Billy Parys of Dubois, we would have more energy to devote to what goes into them. Have a good vacation.

Steven F. Frank ’80 — Chairman

The Tech

Thursday, December 11, 1979

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Feedback

I was quite disturbed when, at the showing of an LSC-produced film, someone had the gall to huff at me over a press pass. “The Little One” when it was mentioned that it was a Christian tale based loosely on the nativity. Since when is Walt Disney worth the kind of disrespect? While it is one’s right to be offended by anything he wishes, it doesn’t make it any more right than for me to be intolerant of Jews or atheists, and take offense to Hanukkah, or non-celebration of Christmas. It is one thing to show tolerance, and respect for others’ beliefs and customs, and quite another to take offense to them, and censor the acts of others.

Most who complain about Christmas seem to take offense not to anything about Christmas itself, but to the sole point that it is at least partly Christian in origin, which would imply that these people take offense to Christianity in any manifestation. Can their attitude towards Christianity be so grotesque that a Christmas tree is compared to the symbols of Nazism, the K.K.K., and various religious fascism?

And so, if there can be a place in this community for such mis-understandings and prejudices? Some seem to hold that it is both immoral and un-American to put up Christmas decorations in public. Can this seriously be argued when such public decorations are common not only all over Boston, but all over the United States, and for that matter, the entire western world? If these people are right, there will be a lot of decorations to take down.

If some find Christmas to be offensive, and isolating, it is not the fault of Christmas. Many non-Christian Americans, including Jews, Moslems, Hindus, and native Americans, have found something universal in Christmas’ spirit of love, joy, and brotherhood. Certainly these things cannot be against one’s religion. Indeed, many of Christmas’ strongest supporters are those with no religious beliefs at all. Those who choose to look upon Christmas as a thing of evil have missed the entire point, and are doing both themselves and the community a great disservice.

Arthur Hu

Christmas complaints are not valid

To the Editor:

Once again, The Tech has succumbed to the use of “feedback” as a forum for religious propaganda. Please refer to Page 4 of the November 23 edition of The Tech. Here is a quote from J. Andrew Combs:

"After many years of leading a self-centered life..." The quoting sentence attempts to substantiate the questionable fact that his life is no longer self-centered. It is interesting to note that while this will contend the aforementioned, J. Andrew Combs chose the following personal pronouns for his letter: "I", "my", and "myself" a total of 26 times. The remaining contents of the letter, which can aptly be referred to as absurd gibberish, contains the following quote... even if the entire population of the world rose up and said not to follow Reverend Moore..." It is clearly evident that if the whole world cannot alter J. Andrew Combs’ clouded perception, it truly his actions that define self-centeredness.

J. Andrew Combs has had the first hand “personal experience” with Reverend Moor and the Unification Church. Will anyone who has actually met Reverend Moor, in person, please indicate so by writing to The Tech?

Finally, J. Andrew Combs G, if you are content with being what many would call a loser, fine, but please stop advertising as if you are trying to sell a product.

Steven J. Silberman ’83

The Tech