A humble song to MIT recalling some highs

For me, MIT is not a memory. My thesis has been approved and harking some unforeseen circumstance, I will soon have my diploma. What will it all mean to me? Three ________days/year at the Institute? Right now, these are some of the things that stick in my mind.

The Tech was that storm which cancelled the first week of classes for the spring term two years ago, I remember walking around town during the storm and finding a newly deserted city with absolutely no sign of life. People were even walking down the middle of Mass Ave.

That was the storm that caused The Tech to publish an issue two days late. We at The Tech, who pride ourselves on our record of regular publication, were heartbroken and decided to break the paper's li- quid supply to drown our sorrow. That was the only time I got really upset. I was sick all night and the next day I became part of the flu chorus which was sweeping campus. So much for the medicinal value of alcohol.

The football club. A football team is something I had wanted to see at MIT since the day I got here. When I was a sports editor of The Tech my sophomore year, I even wrote a column which called for the formation of a football start. So naturally I was overjoyed when the MIT Foot- ball Club took the field in the fall of 1978.

The Homecoming game was the highlight of that season. Having been to several football events which I consider failures, I was overwhelmed by the nearly 2000 fans who came to see the game. Everybody seemed to have fun and not many people really cared that we lost 22-0 to one of the nation's top teams. I think we'll never forget it. Liz Harten reigned as the Homecoming Queen. Wonder where she got that idea?

The Tech's homecoming guide was published in April of 1977. The new defunct newspaper thursday published a rating of the sexual per- formance of several MIT men. At the time of publication, reactions ranged from laughter of the those who thought it was a good back to the indignation of those who had been given poor ratings in the article. The weekend of homecoming, however, President Wiesner condemned the article on the front page of Tech Talk. Soon the wire services picked up the story and news of the Consumer's Guide appeared in newspapers across the country. At least it dispelled the myth that the only thing MIT students do is study. --

The Paul Gray scoop. This last semester, I was proud to be part of The Tech when we announced the selection of Chancellor Gray as the next president of MIT. Steve Solnick spent a week tracking down sources before he finally had the story nailed down. Then Friday morn- ing we had to sweat out getting the paper back from the printer. The issue finally came out an hour before the Institute's official announce- ment of Gray's appointment. Because the story had been printed and accidentally reversed pictures of Paul Gray and the Pope. Don't ask me how.

The Tech trick or treating. In November of my stay at MIT, all things considered; it was a very exciting way to spend the last few years.

Stephanie Pollack
Some observations of our capital city

Walter Mondale has called Washington DC "sixty-seven square miles surrounded by Crazy Red States." But for the past three days in DC, I must agree with Fritz — in part. I'm not proud of my city. There is everything resembling reality out- side of Washington, but I can guarantee that there isn't any whatever within its borders. I know — I looked.

The first thing one notices about the nation's capital is that it is basically a single-axis; the city is designed so that even a politician can figure out how to get around. The original plans for a "federal city" were drawn up by the French engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant's "rorta." This plan was a still being punished for his mistake. You should hear how some of the monumental con- stitutions—pronounce (or mis- pronounce) the name of the plaza named after him. The unfortunate designer must be turning in his grave at least 33 rpm.

For the most part, the city is quite easy to deciper. Streets are either numbered or lettered and logically arranged or "alphabetized" of for example G Street NW, a street which begins with a "G" and looking for one of the same type which has "e" as its first letter, you least can figure out how far you need to go. Ever-so often however, you come across these really nasty avenues that cut diagonally across the city and screw up everything. As I found to my own, nothing in Washington is perfect.

The city's latest disaster (no, not Carter's election) is the my- Congressman's election, the called the metro, short for. This white elephant of a subway system has already run up a multi-billion dollar bill, and it's nowhere near completion. As one visitor put it, "It doesn't go anywhere, and it costs too much to get there." The only district and federal government could possibly recover its losses would be rented out as on for science fiction movies. The stations have high, arched ceilings of white stone, and are filled with such logic which easily everything from newspapers to false idols. Fears that some engineer's nightmare come true. Someone who really hates tourists has said that they have devised this system, which requires one to use a farecard both upon entering and leaving the subway system. The whole thing is run by poorly ex- jected machines, and there is no way to get you change if you have no coins, or bills of less than ten dol- lars.

The results from the recent caucuses in Iowa have been in for several days now, and since the smoke has finally cleared from all those dark back rooms in that tiny state, it is time to take a long hard look at what really hap- pened, and what lessons might be learned from it.

First of all, why have the Iowa caucuses been made out to be so impor- tant? After all, no delegates were chosen, no great issues set- tled, no deadly blows dealt. In fact, only about ten percent of the voters in a state that only houses 1.5 percent of this country's voters voted last Tuesday.

Well, first of all there is the historical outlook to be con- sidered. The Paul Gray scoop. This last semester, I was proud to be part of The Tech when we announced the selection of Chancellor Gray as the next president of MIT. Steve Solnick spent a week tracking down sources before he finally had the story nailed down. Then Friday morn- ing we had to sweat out getting the paper back from the printer. The issue finally came out an hour before the Institute's official announce- ment of Gray's appointment. Because the story had been printed and accidentally reversed pictures of Paul Gray and the Pope. Don't ask me how.

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