Editorial

Warning: crowding may be dangerous... 

As if last week's news of spiraling educational price increases were not bothersome enough to students, recent murrinings about severely overcrowded facilities further complicate the lives of all members of the MIT community.

The largest department in MIT's largest school, the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, does not have enough laboratory kits, let alone instructors or teaching assistants, to accommodate all of the students who wish to enroll in its classes. The crucial topic at last week's faculty meeting was discussion of overburdened facilities: MIT does not have enough space or resources to serve the needs of its community.

There are three possible explanations for the problem. One is impractical, one is unfair, and only one is truly feasible.

The first, increasing funding for expansion of faculty and facilities, is inherently unsatisfactory given the current state of the economy and the difficulty MIT is having meeting its existing commitments. The second, authorizing the Committee on Academic Performance to raise minimum academic standards, and thereby lower enrollment, is an inequitable solution which seems wrong, especially considering the Administration's stated intent to try and reduce the pace of the Institute.

That leaves only one alternative: reducing the size of incoming classes. This solution would not alleviate the immediate apprehensions of students forced to restructure their schedules because they have been unceremoniously dropped from classes, but will eventually prove to be the only viable resolution to the crowding dilemmas.

It is therefore imperative that the Academic Council make a long-term commitment to hold the class size to 1000 students and then ensure that the Admissions Office heeds these restrictions.

Unionization vs. conscience

On March 26, employees of the Harvard Cooperative Society will decide whether or not they will be represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. The dispute about unionization, which should seemingly be confined to the Coop's management and employees, has repeatedly spilled over into the MIT community.

Last week a request made by Tech Coop management for use of Student Center facilities was rejected by the MIT administration.

In the future, CS members are required to present Tech Coop membership cards on the first floor of the Student Center for "trespassing after notice."

The MIT administration is properly attempting to confine the unionization battle to the Coop, Federal law, and common sense, dictate that the decision on whether or not union representation is desired remain with employees.

Despite the need for distance, MIT students are inexorably drawn into the unionization issue because of their role in the Coop's management. Any MIT student with a Coop number has a voice in Coop decisions through his vote for Coop directors. The interests of students and management in the unionization dispute do not necessarily coincide; however, despite a statement by a student Coop director in these pages to the contrary.

Unionization may or may not result in higher costs and lower rates for students. However, any possible monetary losses may be compensated by gains in wages, working conditions and dignity. The individual stance of managers, who stand to lose high profits, may differ from that of students responsive to social conscience.

Opinion

Many students in SAA

To the Editor:

From the results of several incidents that occurred recently, we must ask ourselves: is there space for Blacks at MIT? and due to our conscience, we must answer with a resounding NO!

The issue that we speak of is the availability of Institute facilities for use by black students and organizations.

In order to celebrate Black History Month, we needed various Institute locations to hold social and cultural events, and as stated, these locations were not available; thus, we could not celebrate Black History Month effectively in February. We acknowledge that the Institute has declared Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday an Institute holiday and that the MIT Food Services is hosting "Soul Food Night." But these are nullified by the denial of Black History Month at MIT.

Youths at Boston Schools look forward to attending MIT festivities, but due to the rejection of our request to use Kongo Auditorium, the Vannevar Bush Room, and the Student Center, we could not host them.

One would think that after paying $6300 for national Institute facilities would be available at anytime to anyone. Unfortunately, this is not the case for Blacks at this time; however, this situation must cease. Therefore, we appeal to Dean Shirley McBryde, President Paul Gray, and Chairman Howard Johnson, to investigate a prompt solution to eradicate this problem.

Names withheld by request

Saul review offensive

To the Editor:

I find that I must take issue with Jonathan Richmond's review of Saul (Canters Singers, Sanders Theatre, Feb. 11 and 15). Firstly, the notion that "Saul is an occasion. It was not meant to be staged.," phrased with all the indignation of an old-world pedant, is as offensive as it is false. Secondly, director Sells was hardly after "realism" as Richmond claims; rather, the production was fashioned more along the lines of the medieval Mystery Play; how could its puppet-theatre images and fairy-tale incarnations be construed as an attempt at realism?

Finally, the most irritating aspect of the review was its haughty, "purling" tone; instead of indulging in hollow parergic of the great George Frederick, the reviewer might have done well to spurn a "micon" of his own sensivity with a view toward understanding the themes and theatrical substances Sells was attempting to highlight.

It is a constant source of pleasure to me that a greater part of the country's artistic community rejects such vestiges of sanctimonious Victorianism.

Rae Michael Short

The Tech

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feedback

Space for blacks at MIT?

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