Opinion

Students defend freedom of choice

By Stephanie Pollack

For visiting thirty-one inhabited planets in the universe, and I have studied more. There is any talk of free will.

Kurt Vonngott, Jr. Slaughterhouse Fire

One hundred students from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst protested last week over yet another incursion into their student's lives. The leader of the demonstration declared the school's latest insulting action, claiming "We are sick of the university treating us like 6-year-old kids."

Had the university imposed mandatory commons? Tightened the requirements for graduation? Set a 10pm curfew?

All of the above, Amherst had ended the sharing of dormitory bathrooms by men and women. Larry Wright, leader of the Coalition for Civil Living, called the action a reversion to the Victorian era. He noted students don't want to be told "where to go to the bathroom."

Freedom of choice is important to college students, who are often making their own decisions for the first time after years of parental control. How and where to go to the bathroom is one of the first, most easy to say, rights accorded to individuals.

Although it may seem ridiculous, it is certainly legitimate for the Massachusetts students to pursue bathroom liberation.

... ... ...

Many of MIT's freshmen who are onboard commons probably sympathize with the problems in Amherst, having been told for the last nine months exactly what and where to go to the dormitory's mandatory commons has focused on what freshmen are being forced to eat, many are just as upset about the control over their meal schedules.

Growing pains? It would probably be appropriate if breakfast and lunch, noon, and seven at eight, and supper sometime after midnight. These are, after all, the school's schedules. The only time 7am breakfasts are useful for most students is after all-nighters, and who could handle crammed breakfast at 7pm?

Students aren't thrilled to eat when they want, rather than when it is convenient for Dinning Service. It is the same type of basic right being taken away from the Amherst: in fact, commons and bathrooms are closely related issues. If students are to be coerced into eating Veal Prikkus, they should at least be able to eat it at their leisure. After all, what difference will a couple of hours make over a week old veg?

... ... ...

Yet another threat to freedom of choice has appeared in recent days; the Committee on Educational Policy (COP) is considering a proposal to change the rules for UAP. The proposal is part of a larger curriculum review now in progress, is an anathema to those of us who refuse to deal with machines that can't function without conformed to the technological crisis.

I have never taken a computer course. I cannot list FORTRAN or LISP under the "languages spoken," portion of my resume. I fully intend to graduate without ever having written a program. If MIT would have required a computer science course when I was a senior in high school, I would not be here today.

I am sure other students have similar feelings about the possibility of a required writing course, and their complaints are equally valid. It seems incongruous for one portion of the COP report to lament the passing of unrestricted electives due to excessive departmental requirement, while another portion demands that computer courses be given to students some gift for being able to select their own courses. Some of those courses are not mandatory, but they come up to no significant restrictions on student choice. Students are already troubled by rising tuition, potentially lethal budget cuts from the chopper, and the重要性 of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In response to a COP editorial, "Choosing a UAP," I was concerned that The Tech's decision was reached without much discussion with the candidates. The editorial mentioned that "Charles Moon was on the more side. They can't demonstrate it with much excitement."

It is a pity to see what we can consider the whole picture.

The ability to be a good representative for the student body carries great importance. The UAP must be able to work with the administration as well as the community. If The Tech had done more to prepare them, they would have discovered that the team of Charles Moon and Bob Wallace was more ambitious.

Johannesen is able

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Feedback

Choosing a UAP

Moon/Wallace have experience

To the Editors: The editorial appearing in The Tech on Tuesday aptly identifies a common perception that the team of Charles Moon and Bob Wallace had already run with George Havell, the Associate Director of Housing and Food Services. Dean McQuaid and Jim Bruce of the Industrial Liaison Program. Nobody mentioned that they thought of and organized the meeting last week between Dr. Gray and the candidates, to develop a good relationship from the start.

From the very beginning, they decided to build on existing programs in the UA, most notably CASH, SAVES, the First Co-op, etc. They also have a workable plan that will aid the UAP/UAVP written last spring, Co-op, etc. They also have a workable plan that will aid the expansion of the Industrial Liaison Program by the involvement of more students. Because of solutions and cuts in federal aid, this would be a key to obtaining additional funds for the Institute.

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Other choices for a UAP

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