One hundred years of Tech: so what?

A friend who graduated a couple of years ago called Monday at 12:00 am to say "happy birthday." After a moment, I realized that, although it was not my birthday, congratulations were in order — The Tech had been founded one hundred years earlier.

The newspaper’s Centennial was marked by several events, most of which were hampered by the physical plant disaster of their 1981 building. The heaviest event was an exhibit on the history of student activities that opened in the Government Gallery on Monday and will run through the end of Independent Activities Period.

A special Centennial issue was distributed on Monday, and either background or frontpage articles appeared in two of their publications. The abbreviated history of MIT nearly counts as light reading for the few people who spent four days in the office with little food and less sleep wondering how many people will do more than look at the photographs. The issue, like most of the celebration, was a disappointing disappointment.

The Centennial has no great, higher meaning for the MIT community, an issue of The Tech came out the day before the anniversary, and another followed the next day. The two are not significantly different. The birthday provided some opportunity for introspection for Editorial Board, though the majority of the thinking took place in the week before the magic date. By Monday night’s banquet at the Parker House in Boston, the staff of the paper had finally been exhausted.

So, even for the staff, November 20th turned out to be, if not a little more than a convenient milestone and an excuse for some serious drinking, five or six years of work to which we look back with less than little joy, less than less sleep. Wonder how many people studen
tpick up or physically disposed of the mess.

The most significant activities period was an exhibit on the history of student activities that opened in the Government Gallery on Monday and will run through the end of Independent Activities Period.

We, as a staff, do not allow that such activities do not require our subsid, in terms of advertising, the Freshman Handbook, Go-To-GAME, and any students of sufficient free expenditure. When we are involved in substantial support (of a Institute-wide cultural event sponsored by a student group) we have to, in conjunction with the group, decide on the scale and nature of the event. This is not interference in internal affairs of a group. We should keep in mind that the Institute has two events by one group in a year.

The hedgehogs’ justice

To the Editor:

To be pricked so what is small strikes me as wisdom for hedgehogs. Through my six years at MIT this hard-earned, the Negev, has taught me most valuably to prove itself a hedgehog of the highest order. Time and time again, as the Black Students Union, the Negev has stood itself so arrogantly, risen a full, quills thrust outward and aquiver, prepared to root out any not sufficiently aware of the special sensitivities of the Negev.

Today these catio little abstractions (with my body) show as if their crooked spines are the very guide of social con
duct, and by right determine the lusts of the age, “Beware,” says your hedgehog justice. “You offer the delicate nature of my collective Negev spine. Your words are an attempt to ensnare my natures. You must discount your expulsions. I will have you fired. I will require public apologies as punishment for your imprudence.”

Oh, cursed spine, that MIT, rather than building mudhouses for these assembled justices, has encouraged and aided their insane and vengeful attempt to root out prejudice.

A tremendous clamor arose around a student’s feet. Knelt, he exiled myriad people, filled with petitions. Freshness and ignorance of Negroes, spilling their beer while fleeing mightily before a crowd of justice. With un-noble eye, the mudman perched the very heart of the hedgehog justice, and fouled, wonder of wonders, that valorous heart shut off by nothing less than reverence for those upon whom it sought to roll.

“I will not be your friend, was it then by my enemy. But my enemy’s name, do not leave me so isolated, so alone.” These words were impressed into the victims’ crucified hedgehog heart.

With this toe the mudman blocked the path of the hedgehog justice and spoke thus:

“I note, avenging hedgehog, that your colour is dark, as is mine. Indeed, among the herd anything more than a no-frills or no-organization organization. In general, the larger and more sophisticated an activity is to be, the more it should be financially independent.

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To the Editor:

Contrary to statements made by Undergraduate Association Finance Board (Pinnboard) Chairman David Pearlboop’82, we believe that there is clear evidence to show that Finboard does indeed have “special status” for financial support. Furthermore, we feel that this policy is irresponsible and not in the best interests of the MIT community as a whole.

The MIT National-American Students Association (MASA) has experienced difficulties in our dealings with the Fin Board similar to those described by Sam Austin ’82, Black Students Union Chairman, and by Tony G. Chinese Students Club President, in the November 10, 1981 issue of The Tech.

On reading through the report entitled “Comments on Activities Budgets Badges-81, which was submitted to Finboard by the UA General Assembly in April, 1981, it is clear that not every club received a financial support within the full amount of the request. Of the twenty-eight clubs, which re
cused support for the 1981-82 academic year, six had their requests fully satisfied. Indeed it is worth noting that none of the six were cultural or ethnic groups. Among the non-cultural groups whose re
quests were not met, it is not u
nacceptable for clubs to be granted support at a level of 75% or in a couple of cases 50% of their original request. It is a harsh contrast to this is MASA’s own experience. For the 1981-82 academic year, MASA was allo
icted less than 4% of its request. As is evident in the table, which was compiled from figures supplied by Finboard and verified by UA accounting dean Margaret Gibson, funding for non-cultural groups fell 75% short of MASA’s request 1981-82, while funding for cultural groups was less than 10%.

We feel that these figures consisten
ly point to an attitude that cultural activities are less worthy of funding than non-cultural ac
tivities. The figures are also en
tirely consistent with the Fin
board document written in the spring of 1981 and entitled “A Philosophy on Funding National/ETHNIC Groups (for dis
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We do not have to support

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