opinion

How to write better

(Continued from page 4)

s suffer, for unless he recognizes his deficiency and lives through the excruciating pain that he suffers, for unless he recognizes his deficiency and lives through the excruciating pain that he suffers, for unless he recognizes his deficiency and lives through the excruciating pain that he suffers, for unless he recognizes his deficiency and lives through the excruciating pain that he suffers.

While there is widespread confusion concerning the importance of writing ability, many feel that having a writing requirement is not the best way to ensure MIT graduates will write coherently. Ideally, students who are accepted to MIT are already able to read with intelligence and sensitivity and to express ideas clearly in oral and written form, as assessed every year in the Bul-lion. MIT's Humanities Department should not have to be a remedial writing center.

The problem, of course, as any admissions officer will tell you, is that MIT's reputation as a technical school skews the applicant pool to high school students of exceptionally strong mathematical ability. Yet, despite MIT's continuing strong emphasis on humanities and student high verbal scores on the SAT, we still hear the complaint, "MIT grads can't write."

The proposed Writing Requirement will not guarantee the elimination of this complaint, but with the diagnostic first stage properly in place, many freshmen who do have serious writing problems will be grateful for the writing course they do take. Otherwise, for the majority of the freshmen who can write well, the requirement should impress upon them the importance the Institute places on the ability to write clearly and effectively.

Admissions standards notwithstanding, the current policy for Humanities Distribution subjects requires that students complete written assignments totaling 25 pages. All too often, unfortunately, this requirement is relaxed by busy professors or is never imposed. Too often receives little or no feedback on his actual writing. The Committee of the Writing Requirement should thus recognize that many students need continued individualized instruction, not merely to write one five page paper satisfactorily, and that writing standards for Humanities Distribution offerings should be maintained.

A writing requirement will never be a panacea. For those writing, whether it be technical, literary, or critical, requires time and commitment. There will still be those who spend four years here and not feel comfortable before a typewriter. In fact, in a time of decreasing nationwide enrollments and tightening financial aid, a writing requirement may even further discourage prospective freshmen.

The key, however, is that MIT's faculty and students must take any such requirement seriously. The effectiveness of Institute-wide affirmation of the ability to communicate creative thought through clearly written prose cannot be understated. MIT graduates have risen to leadership positions in technical fields due to the seriousness of the Institute's technical endeavors—of the faculty feels a necessity for emphasizing writing skills, and predicts that a writing requirement will produce more competent writers, it should do so wholeheartedly.

We're interviewing on campus Friday, March 5

BOOZ·ALLEN & HAMILTON INC.

Are You A
SOFTWARE ENGINEER
lost in a pool of "coders"?

Are You A
WIZARD
Working in a dungeon?

Are you looking for an
OPPORTUNITY
to contribute and share in the

REWARDS
of it?

At Teradyne, our team is made up of capable, intelligent people who are not afraid to learn and work in a loose environment. And we don't want to change that.

WE'RE looking for people with BSEE and BSCE degrees, and those with formal software experience. But if you're good, you'll catch up quickly.

We are building an entire system that will last and grow with its users. No quick hack jobs. We want to do it right.

WE need people capable of working on Minicomputers, Operating Systems, DBMS, Artificial Intelligence, Drivers, Loaders and a ton of other projects.

We offer fantastic rewards— including great salaries and benefits, an independent work environment and as much responsibility as you can handle.

If you want to join a team that will grow and share in the rewards, please sign up for our February 25th interview schedule.

Teradyne, Inc.
4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814
Phone: 492-6700