Editorials

Consider pace

Last week the faculty debated a proposal to impose a writing requirement upon all graduate students, at most. The faculty's meeting this issue will probably come to a vote. In addition to deliberating on the substantive issues, the faculty should consider the effect additional work will have upon the student body. If, as the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) claims, "a substantial number of MIT students do not achieve a level of writing proficiency adequate for the course work at MIT or their professional careers later on," many students will have to take additional courses or perform additional labor to bring their writing skills up to MIT's par. The CEP estimates that fifty percent of MIT students will not satisfy the requirement on their first attempt.

Though the end, increased competence in writing for MIT students may be desirable, the Institute already imposes many requirements upon undergraduates. A writing requirement will be an extra burden added to an already cluttered mantle of freshman, humanities, science distribution, laboratories, and course requirements demanded for an MIT degree. Four years of lectures, recitations, problems sets, and papers should provide MIT students with the necessary education. If it is not, then MIT should not be a continual process of required drudgery. MIT currently has a Humanities Distribution requirement that mandates a considerable amount of writing. Imposing an additional writing requirement may be duplicating an already existing responsibility.

As the faculty and the CEP consider changing the Institute's requirements, they should bear in mind Paul Grey's inaugural address on MIT's pace. The addition of myriad new requirements, they should bear in mind Paul Grey's inaugural address on MIT's pace. The addition of myriad new requirements should be accompanied by a wide-eyed concern for the already high pressure environment that MIT produces.

Look both ways before crossing

Most of us have at one time or another tried to cross Massachusetts Avenue and have almost been killed by someone running the red light. It is not important that the stoplight was safe to cross. It is also of no consequence that running a red light is illegal. Right-of-way does not matter much when a pedestrian is faced by a car. This traffic problem is not unknown to students. It has not gone unnoticed by either the Campus Police or the administration. Yet no one has done anything about it. If someone were to be hit and seriously injured, all would gripe and a committee would be formed to study the problem. Unfortunately, hindsight may be 20-20 but foresight rarely is. It is true that it is easier to recognize potential problems after tragedies have occurred. The Institute should investigate the traffic problem before there is a need for another hindsight committee.

Opinion

Rune is alive and well

To the Editor:

I am thePeople's Advocate, the student publication of the Council of the Arts. We are an informal organization of arts students dedicated to publicizing the arts at MIT. The People's Advocate is a part of that mission. We were dismayed to read the article about the People's Advocate in February 12's 'Tech. While the facts presented in the article are substantially true, their interpretation is questionable. Rune is not in danger of dying. We are working to improve the publication, and sometimes we can't accomplish as much as we'd like right away.

To the Editor:

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published twice a week during the academic year except during MIT vacations; weekly during January, and once during the summer. Subscriptions: $10.00 per year in the U.S., $13.00 per year outside the U.S. (air mail). Three copies included with Class Ring. The Tech, 84 Massachusetts Ave. Room W-203, Cambridge, MA 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 54021. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing editor: The Tech, P.O. Box 254 NIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Telephone: 253-2030. 1541. Advertising, subscription, and operating reports available. © 1982 The Tech. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.

Production of this document by Oracle Text; no further processing required.

The Tech, Monday, February 23, 1982

Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, represent the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of the chairman, editor-in-chief, managing editor, and news editors.

Columns are usually written by members of The Tech staff and represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the rest of the staff.

Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the writer. The Tech attempts to publish all letters received, and will consider columns or stories. All submissions should be typed, triple spaced, on a 37-character line. Unsigned letters will not be printed, but authors' names will be withheld upon request.

Feedback

To the Editor:

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To the Editor:

MIT students should learn to write, but the CAF's recommenda-

tions seem to be based on the typical, harmful, MIT approach: it is easier to mandate learning than it is to teach well.

Robert L. Scadellis '82