Jeri-Lynn Scofield

Finals week again

I think many MIT professors plan courses on the assumption that students take exams only — the last term — that I could adjust in
the natural context if instructors would recognize my epocentricity and
plot the time lines properly. No, neither professor nor student
is realistic, however, and both professors and students eventually
acknowledge each other’s interests when planning schedules.

For instance, there have been rules which attempted to
ensure that student workloads do not become unbearable in the weeks before finals. The most successful, as defined by the
Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), assume all MIT students
undergo a standard four or five course schedule, including periodic tests, during finals examination. They also assume
that announced early in the term to allow students to complete

Few actually know what the faculty rules say. Among other
principles, they prohibit:

• take-home exams that fall due past 9am on the Monday of the last week of classes — as with the limited exception of subjects which have
no final exam, and have no quizzes or other assignments due during
the last week of classes;

• assignments of any kind from being given and falling due after the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class for that subject. This
obviously does not prevent an instructor from giving an extension to
an individual student, but an extension should not be given to
the majority of the class.

• classes, examinations, or exercises of any kind scheduled beyond the
end of the last regularly scheduled class in a subject, except for final exams scheduled by the Registrar’s Office.

The faculty policy permits a short reading period before final
examinations. Many students can never utilize this period; for them finals week is a no-go area. To alleviate student suffering, the
CEP must revise MIT’s final examination policy. Tests should be
held not during the last week of classes; all final examinations should be administered in finals week.

Many courses, particularly humanities, social science, and upper level engineering, already have scheduled final examinations scheduled during the last week of classes. In addition, instead of a misguided attempt to reduce student workloads, professors can be
enjoyed during a week’s worth of tests, in conjunction with term projects or papers, are the only graded assignments in a course. They are true final examinations except they are not offered in finals week. Professors argue that final tests — one or so long — are easier to take than final examinations — of
offered, and most instructors have no time to review before final tests, and defeat the purpose of even a short reading period. Professors argue that tests given in the last week of class are shorter, yet are not offered.

The current faculty rules are often ignored, for many reasons. If they were rigidly interpreted, they would be extremely burdensome for students, particularly since no one is aware of them until term’s end. By then, instructors who wish to follow the rules can not, unless they make assignments
due earlier. Students legitimately resist such a move; most professors can not easily adjust to the term’s workload.

In order for any policy to be more than a sham, it must be published and enforced. It is rather surprising to currently not know a final examination policy exists; even those who are often ignorant of what the rules actually say. If faculty members were required to file a schedule of intended assignments with department chairmen at the beginning of the term, assignments could be checked to insure
compliance with rules. Problems, once discovered, could be rectified before the term progressed. Having instructors file work schedules might also help prevent the faculty workload, so 18.03 and 9.02 would not have tests on the same day.

Until changes are adopted, professors should be flexible toward re
quests to change exam dates and distributions of exams. I believe that the planners of the courses and professors should be willing to guarantee that graded tasks designed to encourage students to communicate their course work, and that changes in student performances — not only can the student achieve the lowest spell without sleep.

The Tech.

PICK THE CHARACTER WHO FOR YOUR CHARACTER HAS REPRESENTED THE INTERESTS OF BIG POWER COMPANIES, (WITH HIS NAME IS WAT) opinion

Column/Barry S. Surman

Saturday night on Long Wharf

The Commonwealth, a 135-foot cruise ship owned by the Bay State-Spray & Pragmatic Steamship Company, had just
moored at Long Wharf for the season. A group of young people streamed down the trestle metal gangplanks, laughed and smoked cigarettes as they walked the two hundred yards to waiting buses.

A blue sedan slowly worked its way along the crowded pier. Long Wharf was more crowded than it had been in recent mem
ory. The Chart House was doing a healthy business; the Boston Marriott drew throngs to drink in its new bars, to eat in its new restaurants, and just to see the new hotel. Though sunny, it was a comfortable night, the kind of night one associates with the

The harbor seals laid half-c

Copyright © 1982 The Tech

The Tech is an independent newspaper published weekly by The Tech, Inc. The Tech is a not-for-profit corporation, established in 1869. The Tech is financed by the sale of subscriptions, and by grants and gifts. The Tech’s Board of Directors is elected by the membership of The Tech. The Tech is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press. The Tech does not and will not publish any material that is libelous, obscene, or otherwise violative of the law.

All rights reserved. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced without the express written permission of The Tech. Rights may be granted to others for publication in other forms. The Tech is printed on recycled paper. All contributions become the property of the Tech.

The Tech is printed on recycled paper. All contributions become the property of the Tech.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-3907) is published twice a week during the academic year, and once a week during the summer. The
Tech is published on Monday and Thursday evenings after the last week in July for $10.00 per year. Third Class by The Tech, 94
Masaryk Ave, Boston, MA 02125. Second Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 5970

Feedback

Recruitment policy criticized

To the Editor:

An open letter to Mr. Weatherall, Director, Career Planning and Placement

Dear Mr. Weatherall,

I am writing to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to write to The Tech.

After spending a great many hours in the Placement Office this year, I have now realized how hectic it can be for you and your staff. I am also well aware of the time-consuming and courteous job that you do, es
pecially in your willingness to

Now, Mr. Weatherall, I am again going to ask for your help. I am well aware of the fact that you publish a resume book for students and positions in science and engineering. It has led to some job opportunities for a few friends of mine. I must admit, though, that I was not aware of your list of minority students until I read about it in The Tech.

Mr. Weatherall, I have tried to do my homework, but I am still confused. The Placement Manual states that your "only requirement is that an organization which comes recruiting... should represent itself fairly, and that it should showativa [sic] fairly as a candidate." I feel safe to assume that based on this policy, Mr. Weatherall, you would ban an organization that explicitly re

I hope you would! But why does it appear that you not only made an exclusive list, but aid organizations explicitly requesting minorities with an exclusive list?

In your recent letter, you seem to have equated the justifications of the resume book with the "List by Departments of Minority Students." I'm sorry, Mr. Weatherall, but I don't see the correlation. I find it totally justified that I am excluded from your prime list of organizations. I am not graduating this year. The minority list, though, contains many students who are interested in permanent or summer employ
ment in 1982 who have returned a card indicating that they like their names given to employers. As I recall, this list supposedly allows employers to make a wider selection. I fail to see how this would make any difference to my employment. I have no idea how this can be applied that you not only made an exclusive list, but aid organizations explicitly requesting minorities with an exclusive list?

In your recent letter, you seem to have equated the justifications of the resume book with the "List

Tom Donahue '83

Ivan K. Fors '83 — Chairman
Jeri-Lynn Scofield '83 — Editor-in-Chief
V. Michael Bove '83 — Managing Editor
Mia Pager '84 — Business Manager
Volume 102, Number 20
Friday, April 23, 1982

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE
Night Editor: Ken Snow '82, Staff: Bill Spitzer '82, Charlie Brown '82, John G. Blumen '84, Bill Macmor '84, Paul G. Galuda '85, Max Halperin '85, Daniel J. Weidman '85.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Brian Jay Glass '82, David Shaw '82, Kenneth Snow '82, Jon von Zel梧itz '82, Richard W. Epstein '83, Indexing Project.

SENIOR EDITORS
Stephanie Pollock '82, Michael Shimazu '82

The Tech (ISSN 0148-3907) is published twice a week during the academic year, and once a week during the summer. The Tech is published on Monday and Thursday evenings after the last week in July for $10.00 per year. Third Class by The Tech, 94 Masaryk Ave, Boston, MA 02125. Second Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 5970 Boston. Postmaster: Please send all address changes to our mailing house: The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139 Telephone: (617) 253-5611 Fax: (617) 253-0942. Online version available at: http://www.thetech.org. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.

The Tech is printed on recycled paper. All contributions become the property of the Tech.

To the Editor:

An open letter to Mr. Weatherall, Director, Career Planning and Placement

Dear Mr. Weatherall,

I am writing to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to write to The Tech.

After spending a great many hours in the Placement Office this year, I have now realized how hectic it can be for you and your staff. I am also well aware of the time-consuming and courteous job that you do, especially in your willingness to

Now, Mr. Weatherall, I am again going to ask for your help. I am well aware of the fact that you publish a resume book for students and positions in science and engineering. It has led to some job opportunities for a few friends of mine. I must admit, though, that I was not aware of your list of minority students until I read about it in The Tech.

Mr. Weatherall, I have tried to do my homework, but I am still confused. The Placement Manual states that your "only requirement is that an organization which comes recruiting... should represent itself fairly, and that it should showativa [sic] fairly as a candidate." I feel safe to assume that based on this policy, Mr. Weatherall, you would ban an organization that explicitly re

I hope you would! But why does it appear that you not only made an exclusive list, but aid organizations explicitly requesting minorities with an exclusive list?

In your recent letter, you seem to have equated the justifications of the resume book with the "List by Departments of Minority Students." I’m sorry, Mr. Weatherall, but I don’t see the correlation. I find it totally justified that I am excluded from your prime list of organizations. I am not graduating this year. The minority list, though, contains many students who are interested in permanent or summer employ
ment in 1982 who have returned a card indicating that they like their names given to employers. As I recall, this list supposedly allows employers to make a wider selection. I fail to see how this would make any difference to my employment. I have no idea how this can be applied that you not only made an exclusive list, but aid organizations explicitly requesting minorities with an exclusive list?

In your recent letter, you seem to have equated the justifications of the resume book with the "List