Failure of nerve?

(Continued from page 5) does that their European counterparts were so much more profound than they could ever possibly be.

There has been a failure of nerve in many areas of American public affairs, but few are as breathtakingly pernicious as that which has squandered our urban landscapes. The debate, to the extent that there is one within architectural schools and firms, has centered about the desirability of horizontal, as opposed to a vertical, city landscape. Few thinkers (Lewis Mumford is one notable exception) have been able to justify in aesthetic terms the sort of environment that would be created by low-level buildings, although this is precisely the style that found so much favor in the past. But these achievements are likely to be no avail, if there is no movement made to improve the eye-level conditions of the urban resident (tax rates, infrastructure, zoning restrictions or the lack thereof, and unemployment). But we can be certain that, given no attempt to break out unfruitful and brutal intellectual practices, those who must live among the architectural debris of the past will be condemned to repeat it.

There is yet the possibility of creating imaginative individual works of vertical urban architecture: the IDS Center in Minneapolis, the Renaissance Center in Detroit, and the Trump Tower in Manhattan are all examples of our latent originality. It is likely that for such buildings to be successful, they will have to take on a more delicate and subtle-like shape than has been the case in the past. But these achievements are likely to be no avail, if there is no movement made to improve the eye-level conditions of the urban resident (tax rates, infrastructure, zoning restrictions or the lack thereof, and unemployment). But we can be certain that, given no attempt to break out unfruitful and brutal intellectual practices, those who must live among the architectural debris of the past will be condemned to repeat it.

To the Editor:
I was surprised and disappointed by the words placed in my mouth by Burt Kaliski. Contrary to the article concerning the General Assembly (GA) quorum, I did not say that I wanted to shut down the GA because they shut down the shuttle. Having worked as a GA Floor leader for a term, I know the importance of this group. The article continued by stating that Ken Segel denied my statement. Of course he did, he knew I didn't say it. If your reporter had read the GA agenda or at least corroborated the statement with me you would have been able to print the truth.

Your coverage of student activities and the Shuttle Project is particular has been dismal. As you know, the students involved in activities try as hard as they are able. The Shuttle was a bold experiment to show that students could provide services for themselves. Your negative coverage has not helped the effort. I hope your view toward student activities becomes more positive in the future.

I ask that you print a retraction and apologize for your misrepresentation and ask that you corroborate quotations with the person being quoted.

Michael Lopez '83

Editor's note: The Tech stands by the quote and the story. Ken Segel did not deny that Lopez made such a statement; he denied the validity of Lopez's charge.

Lopez disputes quote

To the Editor:
In the otherwise interesting report in The Tech of November 12, on my November 9th I.S.C lecture on the 1982 elections a mistake was made which makes me blush. My comment that the 1982 election was a “last gasp” was directed solely to the Massachusetts Republican party. To my practiced eye the Republican party outside Massachusetts and nationally is very much alive and kicking.

Louis Mendall III

Editor's note: The Tech apologizes for our error. We regret any misunderstanding our mistake may have caused.

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