Financedirector elaborates

To the Editor:

In the more than sixteen years that I have been accessible to The Tech to explain and describe MIT's finances and operations, this is the first time that it has been necessary to write regard to an article that appeared in your publication. The editorial and column in question (Oct. 25) are based on the application of employee benefits to student employees. It is an interesting fact that which will help to clarify the situation.

The change in employee benefits, which became effective on Oct. 1, 1983, was made for programmatic, not financial reasons. In fact, MIT took considerable financial risk in making the change, a risk that could only be offset by an increase in graduate enrollment, encouraged by that change. The purpose of the change was to improve the employment opportunities for graduate students in research programs by reducing the apparent cost of these students via a vis post-doctoral fellows. The mechanism used to achieve this goal was simply to take a direct cost and to distribute it through employee benefits to student employees, encouraged by that change. The decision to make this accounting change was only after discussion with the Academic Council and the Faculty Council. When it appeared that this change would benefit the academic programs of the Institute, approval was sought from the federal auditors (Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR), MIT's cognizant federal agency. Part of the fiscal agreement was the application of the employee benefit rate to all MIT employees — including students.

Discussion of the change was initiated in the fall of 1982 to include the Academic Council and administrative officers. Formal notice of the change was sent to the Faculty Council (the Academic Council plus academic and administrative officers, principal investigators, and administrative officers in January 1983. During the spring, Dean of Graduate School Kenneth R. Wadleigh '43 chaired a committee that worked on the details of implementation.

In my two discussions with your reporter, I explained that we could not exempt student activities from employee benefits unless the federal government concurred. I suggested, however, that relief could be obtained by changing the budget to provide funds to offset the employee benefit charge. This budget change would require the support of the Dean for students. Relief as student activities come under her cognizance. It would also require the use of unrestricted funds that would have to come from future surpluses or reductions in some activity that would free unrestricted funds for this use. Thus, the budget discussion becomes one of competing for

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Still Looking for Ugly People...

APO is trying to raise money for charity. Come on, ugly people, where are you hiding? The contest, to determine the ugliest man/woman/thing on campus, then continue throughout this week. For info, call the APO office at x3-3708.

Be a More Better Writer

MIT's Writing and Communication Center, located in 3-417, has a staff of professional and peer tutors available for advice on all aspects of writing. The staff is available during the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may feel free to consult one of the staff before or during the writing of a paper or have them take a look after you've completed it. The Writing Center also conducts seminars on various aspects of writing, oral presentations, scientific writing, exam taking, and using English as a Second Language. A new service for this year is special tutoring by appointment for native speakers of English. This service is provided every Tuesday from 10-4. Interested? Call x3-3990.

Large Senior Meeting

There will be a huge Senior Class meeting (tomorrow) at 7:30 in room 401 of the Student Center. Organizers for Senior Week events, new class council members and seniors interested in the senior class activities are needed. So come talk about the graduation speaker, surveys, and Senior Week events. The GA will be there to talk to Toscain's at 8:30. The Class of '84 needs you, so please show up!

So '84 T-Shirt Designs Wanted

Seniors, remember the Jersey design contest with the $25 prize? Well, we're approaching and we've received no designs yet. Five people are planning to submit designs; what about you? See the class newsletter for details, or send a photocopy of your design to East Campus, Goodale 498. Any questions? Call Rich at d1 6481.

Open Office

Open office hours will be continued until further notice in the UA Office, room 401 of the Student Center. Hours are:

Monday 11-12, 2-3
Tuesday 11-12, 2-5
Thursday 11-12, 2:5

Stop by and flame.